



Computer literate  
Nora is 95!  
See story on page 5

# Bridgend & Porthcawl

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THURSDAY, MAY 14TH, 2009

## Chris cheques in for the RNLI!



Chris Ellis (on far right) is pictured with Ian Stroud, Ian Evans, Tim Morgan, Rick Rava, Paul Eastment (senior helmsmen) and John Abraham, chairman of Porthcawl RNLI, at a special handover. See page 11 for the full story.

## Bridgend bride who was beating cancer died from superbug

**A GRIEVING** Bridgend bridegroom has been awarded more than £100,000 compensation, after his young bride died in hospital from a deadly superbug.

Sian Ptolomey beat cancer – but fell victim to the C.difficile infection while being treated in a Cardiff hospital.

Just a few days before she died, Sian (25), was told she was winning her six-month battle against cancer – and was looking forward to a long and happy life.

However, her husband William saw her die just 17 months after their wedding day from C.difficile.

Newly-wed Sian was diagnosed with treatable Hodgkin's Lymphoma and was admitted to hospital. She was winning her battle to overcome the

illness, but was killed by the superbug – believed to have been picked up in hospital.

Her heartbroken father Terry Pickett, of Brackla, said yesterday: "They were looking forward to starting a family together. When she died, we were in total shock because it was all so sudden.

"One minute everything was hunky-dory, with a specialist saying she had virtually beaten cancer – the next she was dead."

Sian's family claimed the hospital where she was being treated for cancer failed to investigate after she complained of the symptoms of C.difficile.

After an inquiry, the Velindre NHS Hospital Trust in Cardiff has paid a six-figure compensation sum to Sian's husband in an out-of-court settlement.

Prison administrative

manager Sian was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in December 2005, but was told there was an 85 per cent chance of a cure.

She made the 20-mile journey to Velindre from her home in Bridgend every two weeks for chemotherapy treatment.

When she complained of a swollen back, vomiting and diarrhoea a few weeks before she died, she was told they were side effects of the cancer treatment.

But less than a week after being told that her cancer sessions were succeeding in beating the disease, she was admitted to her local hospital seriously ill.

Terry (48), said: "From being told she had virtually beaten cancer and everything was looking rosy, we were now being told she had no chance of surviving the night.

"She died 26 hours

after being admitted, with me and her husband holding her hands".

Terry said a doctor at Bridgend's Princess of Wales Hospital told them they suspected clostridium difficile, which led to a ruptured bowel and severe blood poisoning.

"The doctor said if she had been treated earlier, she would still be alive today", he stated.

The primary cause of death on Sian's death certificate is listed as septic shock (clostridium difficile).

Velindre Hospital launched an investigation and sent their findings to Sian's family, admitting failings in relation to identifying her symptoms.

Sian's butcher husband William (34) is still too upset to talk about the tragedy, but Terry said: "I don't want Sian to have died in vain. I don't want this to happen to any other young person, or go through the agony we have endured."

Velindre NHS Trust have apologised to Sian's family – but refused to talk about the tragedy because of "patient confidentiality".

Chief executive Allison Williams said: "Staff work extremely hard to ensure that good infection control procedures are in place to protect patients.

"We are committed to taking all possible precautions to protect our patients from infection.

"However, in the small number of occasions where they do occur, we routinely carry out a thorough investigation, apologise to patients and their families as appropriate.

"And we ensure that we learn from the circumstances to minimise the risk of them happening again".

## £1.3million black hole in budget means A-level courses ended and lecturers hit

## Jobs to be axed at Bridgend College

A £1.3million black hole in its budget this year has resulted in Bridgend College scrapping full-time A-level courses and axing 16 lecturing posts.

These decisions were taken by the college's governors last week after the financial position of the college was spelled out. Although a threatened £330,000 cut in funding from the Welsh Assembly Government has been reversed, the college has had no extra money this year or last year.

As a result of pay rises for staff which it is obligated to pay, the college needed an extra £1m this year just to stand still. If no action had been taken, the college would have faced a £2 million shortfall by next April.

These cuts are on top of the savings which were already identified in February by the decision to close Porthcawl College from June.

These new cuts are targeted at two specific areas – full time A-level courses and some leisure-based courses.

Instead, the college has decided to concentrate on providing skills courses and full time vocational programmes aimed at 16 to 19 year olds and increasing their employability. Courses continuing are all the building trades, which are being moved from September to a new £6m block at Pencoed campus.

Other courses being prioritised include catering, hairdressing, performing arts, forensic science and web site development. But the scrapping of the full time A levels has left students distressed and upset.

Lora Barton, who is 17, is half way through her A-levels in English, law and psychology and hopes to study English at university.

Lora, from Brackla, accused the college of being insensitive: "We came into college this week to find our lecturers in tears because they have lost their jobs. It was awful. The staff were crying because they don't know how they will pay their mortgages."

The students have launched a campaign to save these courses and are contacting AM's and MP's at the moment. A petition will be handed in to the Welsh Assembly Government next week.

Lora added that all languages will disappear from the college, apart from Welsh.

"People were able to study French, Spanish and Italian at all levels, including GCSE, but they are being scrapped – as are all other GCSE's apart from English and maths.

"They have also scrapped the Access course which mature students take in order to get to university. This will impact on older people." Elin Griffiths who is marketing manager at the college, said that the college had been forced to make difficult decisions because of the funding situation.

"We decided to axe the full time A level courses because there are ten sixth forms in the borough where students can take these exams. The Welsh Assembly Government has been urging colleges to cut out duplication of courses for some time."

She stressed that the college would continue to offer A-level law and psychology, which are not available in schools, as twilight courses staged after school between 4.30pm and 6.30pm.

She added that the night class A-levels would continue to be offered to the general public subject to enough people signing up.

Ms Griffiths said that the cuts had been made in the general education department and only 42 students currently doing the AS levels were affected.

"They have all been interviewed one to one and we have been contacting schools and neighbouring colleges to get them alternative places. We are having an excellent response and many are being placed either in Neath Port Talbot College or Coleg Morgannwg in Pontypridd. Some may go into schools or may switch courses to remain in the college."

She pointed out that the college had made every effort to keep job losses to a minimum and other col-

*'Staff were crying because they have lost their jobs...'*  
**REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC**

leges, which are also facing a funding crisis have been cutting larger numbers of posts.

Ms Griffiths pointed out that the college was also reviewing its leisure based and part time courses and stated that floristry is under threat.

She explained that only courses which led to a qualification would continue and from now on there will be no subsidy. Students must expect to pay the full costs involved.

She urged would-be students to still apply for courses at the college as many would go ahead, subject to enough people signing up to make them viable. There must be a minimum of ten people on each course, although that figure could change.

Maesteg College is understood to be safe at present and courses will carry on there. Pencoed is thriving and has been designated the secondary campus to Bridgend. More than 1,000 students will be moving there to the new construction academy in September.

Ms Griffiths added: "We have been forced to prioritise because of the budget we have been given. We are concentrating on those courses which WAG has indicated it wants to promote, because that's where the funding will go in the future."

(Advertisement)

## Property Rentals Boom!

**THE staff at property rentals agency Lloyd Taylor Simpson in Pencoed have a bit of a problem. They have almost run out of properties to rent!**

Michelle Thomas, manager of the branch in Pencoed says: "We are rushed off our feet. Suddenly everyone wants to rent a new home and in some cases we are letting properties within hours of them being placed with us. We also have multiple tenants chasing the same property so competition for good quality properties is really high."

She added: "Most of our tenants come to us through our website and through our newspaper and radio advertising, but it's the landlords who are in short supply now as we have more potential tenants than ever."

"I think the market has become much more buoyant in recent months because everyone has got fed up with waiting for good news and want to get on with their lives so are now making moves that were possibly planned as much as a year ago but were put on hold because of the credit crunch."

"Everyone now seems to want to move on. We haven't seen this level of activity for years," added Martyn Lloyd "and the Bridgend area is not the only office that is buzzing. We have seen a big upturn in both sales and rentals in Cardiff with good quality properties being snapped up almost as soon as they become available."

"There's a new air of confidence in the property market throughout South Wales particularly in the rentals side of our business so we are actively looking for more landlords with properties to rent in a ten mile radius of Bridgend. Particularly sought after areas are Brackla, Broadlands, Bridgend town centre – especially near the hospital, Pencoed and Cowbridge."

He added: "Any landlords looking to rent out a property can call Michelle at Lloyd Taylor Simpson on Bridgend (01656) 861010."

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# LET'S NOT FORGET THE 'FOREIGNERS' WHO FOUGHT WITH US FOR FREEDOM

**I**MAGINE living in a country where you weren't allowed to live in or visit certain parts of it.

Imagine being told that the school your children went to was little more than a shack, while other children had brand new buildings.

Imagine a place where you weren't allowed into certain jobs or into college, no matter how good you are, but others could get in – despite being worse at it than you would be.

Imagine, finally, that the reasons why you're treated this way is because somebody slid a pencil into your hair and it didn't fall out.

Fair fetched? Well, unfortunately not,

because I'm describing what South Africa was like between 1948 and 1994 because of the system called apartheid.

This simply meant that if you were white, you got everything: a good education, excellent healthcare, access to the best jobs, and a good income.

If you weren't, you lived in poor housing, went to underfunded schools, and couldn't get the best jobs.

Of course, the system didn't work. Chinese people were categorised as Asian, but the Japanese were white.

The reason for this is that the white supremacists didn't want to upset a big economic power like Japan.

There were some people, of course, who didn't

fit easily into racial categories. They looked European but their skin was a bit dark for the authority's liking. The matter was settled by sliding a pencil into their hair. If it stuck, that meant to their twisted minds that people must have African blood in them and were not white.

You'd be right to think, of course, that the whole system was bonkers.

Eventually, apartheid collapsed because it couldn't train enough people to keep the economy going.

Yet still there are some people who think this was a good system.

The BNP for example, bang on about putting children into "schools appropriate to their cul-

ture" – apartheid under another name.

As I've said before, we are all immigrants in this country – it's simply a question of when our families came.

There have always been people willing to blame immigrants throughout history, of course. They didn't like the Irish in the 19th century, or people from the Caribbean in the 1950s, or Asians in the 1970s, or eastern Europeans in this decade.

One of the great ironies about the Poles, for example, is that after the last world war, they were admired for the fact that so many of them fought for Britain and flew in the RAF.

They were admired again in the 1980s for their stand against the

Soviet Union. Polish immigrants were lauded for their attempts to come to this country to work.

Then it changed. All of a sudden, they were no longer welcome. People forgot what the Poles had done in helping us defeat Hitler.

Most people are the same the world over. Sure, some people are extremists, but they exist in every culture.

They may speak different languages, they may worship different gods or the same god differently, or no god at all.

One thing is always constant, though... They want peace, prosperity, and a better future for their children.

We fought a war for these ideals, and people

## Assembly Notes



by **CARWYN JONES**  
AM for Bridgend  
Counsel General  
and Leader  
of the House.

of many nationalities fought with us.  
*Let's not forget their efforts.*

## Parc Slip memorial

**M**ANY local people will remember the series of lectures and functions held in 1992 to commemorate the dreadful events of August 26, 1892 at Parc Slip, when 112 men and boys perished in a large explosion.

In organising the various commemorative events, we gathered a great deal of material and knowledge about the explosion and the community locally, and seek to preserve that knowledge for posterity.

Our committee is keen that the historical heritage relating to the Parc Slip Disaster in 1892 is preserved. Two key elements are: Firstly, to establish a permanent exhibition concerning the disaster based upon the exhibition mounted in 1992 and again last autumn at St John's Church, Aberkenfig (where incidentally 26 of the victims of the disaster are buried). Secondly, to create a web site where details of the project can reach a much wider public.

We are therefore seeking to involve interested people and particularly younger persons who are prepared to involve themselves with the work of the committee. We welcome anyone who will bring a new perspective and new ideas to our work.

We are holding an open meeting for old friends of Parc Slip and any new and interested parties, on Tuesday, May 26 at 7.30pm in St John's Church, Aberkenfig. A warm welcome is extended to all.  
**Byron Butler, Bridgend**  
(Parc Slip Disaster Memorial Committee)

## HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 21)

*The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15–20 minutes earlier.*

| DATE    | Time AM | Ht M | Time PM | Ht M |
|---------|---------|------|---------|------|
| 14 Thur | 10.41   | 13.0 | 22.57   | 12.9 |
| 15 Fri  | 11.15   | 12.4 | 23.26   | 12.3 |
| 16 Sat  | 11.55   | 12.0 |         |      |
| 17 Sun  | 00.21   | 12.1 | 12.46   | 11.9 |
| 18 Mon  | 01.14   | 11.7 | 13.47   | 11.6 |
| 19 Tues | 02.30   | 11.8 | 15.03   | 11.8 |
| 20 Wed  | 03.44   | 12.3 | 16.09   | 12.4 |
| 21 Thur | 04.44   | 13.1 | 17.11   | 13.1 |

## THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

### Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

## No sporting celebrations for the Bridgend Ravens

**A**S a Bridgend boy born and bred, I would be the first to congratulate Bridgend Athletic RFC on their promotion to Division One West.

However, given neighbouring Bridgend Ravens' defeat on Tuesday night, and their relegation from the top tier of Welsh rugby after more than 100 years – I feel the headline 'Champion performance by promoted Bridgend' in The GEM to be highly inappropriate given the circumstances.

On first glance, the headline is contradictory of the real story. Bridgend RFC has always been the town's sporting draw, boasting a history of international success and a long catalogue of big name players.

The fall from grace is devastating, and has added to a contagious

feeling of doom and gloom in the town. As bad as it was, and as much as it pains me to read it – the slide into Division One is the biggest sporting news to hit the borough for some time, and is worthy of considerable coverage.

I note there is no mention of the Ravens' defeat to Aberavon

whatsoever. Less of the Lions and more of the Ravens, perhaps!

There is no feeling of sour grapes to Athletic for their fantastic season, but I think I write on behalf of all Ravens' fans, or what few remain, when I see such a surprising and ill-placed article.

I can assure all at The

GEM, that there were no celebrations at the Brewery Field on the Tuesday night. Rugby supporters have feelings as well, you know.

**J Guy, Bridgend**  
*Footnote: An unintentional slip of the pen, but point taken! Everyone hopes that this once great club will rise again in no time at all.*

## Huge thank you to 'Operation Christmas Child' volunteers

**O**PERATION Christmas Child is holding a thank you evening for our volunteers who worked at the Talbot Green Warehouse last year.

Over 140 volunteers spent many hours during the campaign providing gifts, checking shoe boxes and cartoning

them for transport, then loading the lorries which took the shoe boxes to East European Countries some volunteers have been attending for many years.

It will be held at Talbot Green Community Centre, Cowbridge Road, Talbot Green CF72 8HS on June 18 from 7.30pm–9pm.

We hope to have presentations from volunteers who went out last

year and delivered the shoe boxes to the children. There will also be displays showing other projects that Samaritan's Purse are involved in.

We are hoping this will be an informative and interesting evening where we can get together socially. Why not come and bring a friend?  
**Ted and Margaret Bird, Llanedeyrn**  
(Telephone 029 2073 4794)

## LOCAL INFORMATION

**MADELEINE MOON MP** for Bridgend  
Westminster office - 02072194417  
Constituency office - 47, Noltton Street, Bridgend.  
Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm. Telephone 01656 750002  
**HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP** for Ogmore  
Constituency Office 01656 737777  
**JANICE GREGORY AM** for Ogmore  
Constituency Office 01656 860034  
**CARWYN JONES AM** for Bridgend  
Constituency office 01656 664320  
Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales  
Telephone 01639 643549  
**BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau**, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open to personal callers: Tuesday-Friday 10am-12.30pm or telephone service: Monday-Friday 10am-12.30pm.  
**MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau** 01656 734662  
**POLICE Bridgend** 01656 655555  
**Porthcawl** 01656 785411  
**Maesteg** 01656 732122  
**CRIMESTOPPERS** 0800 555111 (Emergency number 999)  
**COASTGUARD** 01792 366534  
**GAS** (escapes and emergencies) 0800 111999  
**ELECTRICITY** (power cuts) 0800 0520400  
**WATER SUPPLY** (emergency) 0800 0520130  
**FLOOD LINE** 0845 9881188  
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### Alcohol and drugs:

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National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600  
DASH 01656 650686

**SSAFA – Forces Help** for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need 01656 785435  
**RAF Association Welfare Officer** 01495 249522/01446 740522

**SAMARITANS** (emotional support) 01656 662333  
**MENTAL DISTRESS** (Mental Health Matters) 01656 767045  
**CHILDLINE** 0800 1111

**NSPCC** 0800 800500  
**RSPCA** 0300 123 0744

**WOMEN'S AID** 01656 766139  
**Bridgend Carers' Centre** 01656 658479  
**Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend)** 01656 651490  
**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** (selected numbers)

**Housing service** (General enquiries) 01656 643643; (emergencies out of hours) 01656 663247; (homelessness) 01656 643542.

**EDUCATION** 01656 642643  
**LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES** 01656 642677

**HIGHWAYS** (drains, blockages etc) 01656 643421  
**HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES** (outside normal working hours) 07831 143600

**SOCIAL SERVICES** (general enquiries) 01656 642200  
**SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCIES** (outside normal working hours) 01443 204010

**HOSPITALS** Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend 01656 752752  
Bridgend and District NHS Trust 01656 752752

**VOLUNTARY WORK** Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) 01656 810400

**TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS**  
Brackla Community Council 01656 767072  
Bridgend Town Council 01656 659943

Cefn Cribwr Community Council 01656 741354  
Coity Higher Community Council 01656 656358

Cornelly Community Council 07882 044798  
Pyle Community Council 01656 670251

Coychurch Higher Community Council 01656 863418  
Coychurch Lower Community Council 01656 647216

Garw Valley Community Council 01656 736751  
Laleston Community Council 01656 656506  
Llangynwyd Lower Council 01656 728662

Maesteg Town Council 01656 732631  
Merthyr Mawr Community Council 01656 670058  
Newcastle Higher Community Council 01446 772536

Ogmore Valley Community Council 01656 849402  
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# Primary pupils rise to Yellow Woods challenge



ABOVE: Some of the award winners at the ceremony.

THE recent Yellow Woods competition at Kenfig Nature Reserve challenged primary and infant schools in Bridgend to collect old Yellow Pages.

The competition was funded by Yellow Pages and The Woodland

Trust; 32 schools took part and collected over 3,000 Yellow Pages, which means 5.6 tonnes of paper was recycled, the same weight as an adult African elephant.

The awards ceremony was hosted at the reserve by Graham Holmes, education warden, and Angela

Todd, Sustainable recycling technician. Prizes were presented by Deputy Mayor Jeff Tildesley and his consort Audrey Thomas.

In first place for the second year running were Cefn Glas Infants, having collected 459 Yellow Pages, and in second place, with 204 Yellow Pages, were Brynmynyn Primary. In third place, with 194 Yellow Pages, were Coety Primary.

## Porthcawl's question time for candidates

THE charity, 'Sustainable Wales', is organising a question time for candidates standing in the June 4

European parliamentary elections at the RAFA Club, 6-8, New Road, Porthcawl, at 8pm on Monday, June 1.

Euro candidates from the Labour, Plaid Cymru, Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Green parties will be put on the spot and asked to explain why the public should vote for them.

Margaret Minihinnick, Director of Sustainable

Wales, said: "These are very difficult times. Our economy has been traumatised by the banking crisis, and we have an enormous debt to pay off. Climate change is a fact of life, and society has to start discussing life after oil."

"The public is invited to come along and ensure we have a lively night of local politics in a true hustings atmosphere!"

Individuals with questions should e-mail them to <nm@sustainable-wales.org.uk> or by letter to 'Questions', Sustainable Wales, 41, John Street, Porthcawl CF36 3AP, by Friday, May 29.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

THE Rhiw is to be resurfaced during the present financial year by Bridgend County borough Council, the town council has been told.

It has been complaining about potholes along this road. Paving slabs in Brackla Street, which have been removed by BT and replaced with tarmac, are to be relaid when all the work is completed.

Coun Unwin said that work on the Rhiw was long overdue and he noted the information with pleasure.

COBBLES on the old stone bridge in Bridgend, which is a listed ancient monument, are to be replaced, the town council has been assured.

Tarmac has been placed there as a temporary measure until cobbles can be obtained. The town council has also been told that BCBC's stone masons will be carrying out repairs to the bridge in liaison with CADW as soon as possible after damage in the future.

A stockpile of cobbles and coping stones will be created so that the bridge can be repaired quickly in future.

## Veterans' parade date announced

THE Bridgend County Borough Veterans Association is to hold its first Bridgend and County Borough Armed Forces Day Parade, on Saturday, June 27.

It will start at the Bridgend Recreation Centre at 10.30am and march to the Town Centre Cenotaph arriving at approximately 11am, where a short formal celebration to the Armed Forces will be held.

The parade will then move back to the Recreation Centre, before dispersing to either the Recreation Centre, where a ticket only charity production of the play *Lilli* will be performed, or onto the United Services Club where a buffet and show has been laid on for members and guests.

For further details, contact the secretary, Mrs EJ Williams, at 3 Pendre, Coity Road, Bridgend CF31 1NU; 01656-661585; or email edjwiliams@aol.com.uk

# Your chance to share the community news

## Communities First

ANYONE with a child up to 12 years old, who has concerns regarding their wellbeing, may be interested in an organised health check for children on Thursday, May 21, between 2pm-4pm at Bryncethin Memorial Hall.

## Band

### competes

OGMORE Valley Silver Band will be competing on Saturday (May 16) in the south-east Wales brass band association league at Ebbw Vale.

Every competitive band in south Wales will be there, as the results determine league positions and the possibility of becoming national or even international champions.

There are a number of sections, ranging from championship section, first, second, third and fourth sections. At present, the band is in the second section and last season, through loss of certain musicians, struggled to maintain their position in the league.

The band is composed of a number of novice musicians and welcomes newcomers. It rehearses in Bethania Row, Ogmor Vale, on Sundays (6pm-8pm), Wednesdays (7pm-9pm).

## WI

### conference

ON April 29, members of Aberkenfig and District WI, along with Pen y Fai WI, travelled on the same coach to the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, for the Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes spring conference.

Federation chairman Pam Dinham welcomed the Mayor of Swansea and his wife and representatives from the Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire federations.

The total number of members present was 799, from 85 of the 105 branches of the Women's Institutes in the Glamorgan federation.

The first speaker was Robert Croydon of the Prince's Foundation, which is responsible for architecture, design and building of sustainable dwellings.

Robert went on to explain the work involved in building a new development next to Llandarcy. Called Coed Darcy, it will border the conservation area of Crumlin Bog, and have over 4,000 purpose-built dwellings for local residents.

The chairman's report

**We welcome your local news, views, sports reports, and any other item of local community interest. Send them to us at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL, or email ggem@internet-today.co.uk**

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



## Book fair

Tynyrheol Primary School, Llangineir parent teachers' association is holding a book fair at the school all this week.

To encourage pupils to understand characters they have recently read about in their books, they are encouraged to dress up as those characters and enter a competition. Prizes will be awarded to the pupils wearing the most appropriate costume.

On Friday, the week will culminate with bedtime stories being told in the Richard Price Centre between 6pm-7.30pm.

Parents and children will be welcomed in their pyjamas and dressing gowns, and there will be hot chocolate, squash and biscuits available.

There is a charge of £1 per person, but no charge for children under three. Tickets can be obtained from the school secretary.

## Olympics hit funding

THE nature reserve at Tondur is organising a Teddy Bear trail for children aged under six on Monday, May 18, between 10am-12noon.

The children are asked to bring their teddy bear to follow the trail, and encouraged to make items in a craft making session. There is a charge of £1.50 per child.

For more information, phone 01656 724100.

Because the National

Lottery is cutting funds to charities to help pay for the Olympic Games, this has affected the Wildlife trust. Unless these reserves are correctly funded and managed, they will lose their attraction as a place for the public to enjoy leisure time.

The wildlife trust also provides valuable educational facilities for schools and young children throughout the area.

Hopefully, alternative sponsorship can be found from both public and private industries to ensure these facilities so they are not lost to the public.

## Well done!

AT the recent annual general meeting, the following officials were elected to Sarn and Bryncethin Community Association Mr Glan Walters (chair), Cunn Les Phillips (vice-chair), Anne Terry (treasurer), Clive Mitchell (secretary).

Mr Walters confirmed that the extended library facilities at the Community Centre had now been successfully completed, and all services were now available to the public.

The number of groups using the community centre for various activities had increased in the last 12 months, thanks to the efforts of the volunteers who run the facilities.

## Three speakers entertain branch!

SEVERAL members attended the spring council meeting in the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea on April 28, when 87 institutes were represented and 799 members.

In a very busy day, delegates heard a representative of Taylors of Harrogate speak about their rain forest project, which is supported by members who collect tokens, enabling the planting of 3million trees in Africa; their new project is the South American rain forests.

The second speaker was from the Prince's Foundation (as opposed to the Prince's Trust) who talked about the Coed Darcy project near Llandarcy.

The last speaker of

## COITY WI

the day was Sara Edwards, who entertained the delegates with her unscripted account of her career from its beginnings with Capitol Radio to the recent invitation to become Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed.

At the April meeting, the designated speaker was unable to attend, but Elaine Shepherd (one of the members) stepped in and gave an entertaining demonstration of the art of cartooning.

Some members continue to take part in the Six Bells Thursday quiz evening - proceeds will help to fund a new bell ropes for Coity church.

The next meeting, on May 27, will be for resolutions, followed by cheese and wine.

## Borough planning proposals

Mr W James - 24 Coed Caer Odin, Llangwydd Court, Bridgend - proposed garage extension.

Mr Geoff Dower - land adjacent Dale View, off Cwm Ffoces, Cefn Cribbwr, Bridgend - proposed detached bungalow.

Mr C Tough - land adjacent Hendre Gardens, Pencoeed - three-bedroom dormer bungalow and two single garages. Bridgend College - Bridgend College, Pencoeed Campus, Pencoeed - demolition of outbuilding and construction of cycle users facility.

Mr R Nevens - 20 Clos Castell Newydd, Broadlands, Bridgend - proposed first floor extension. Mr and Mrs S and L

Fabien - 7 Raphael Avenue, Brackla, Bridgend - first floor extension.

Knott-Avonride Limited - Knott-Avonride Ltd, Spelter site, Heol Tywith, Maesteg - proposed extension to accommodate storage of both production materials and finished product.

Mr and Mrs R Bedesha - Longacre, Court Colman, Bridgend - proposed four-car garage with first floor granny flat adjoining existing residential development.

Mr M Ali - land adjacent 60 Vale View, Nantymoel, Bridgend - proposed dwelling. Mr S Honeyard - 83 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend - proposed dormer, ground floor, WC and internal alterations. Mr P Harris - Harpen

House, Llangynydd, Bridgend - alteration of elevation and internal alterations of detached garage to be used as ancillary accommodation for family.

Mr H Lacey - 4 Albany Road, Pontycymer, Bridgend - proposed two storey extension to rear of property. Mr A Phipps - 61 Ogwy Street, Nantymoel, Bridgend - change of use from dentist to dwelling and first floor extension to rear and garage to rear garden.

Mr TR Woolridge - 3 Ffordd Rhaglan, Heol y Cyw, Bridgend - single storey extension. Valley to Coast Housing Ltd - 34 Bakers Way, Sarn, Bridgend - change of use from ground floor flat to office and drop-in centre for the Communities

First team at Sarn. Valleys to Coast Housing Ltd - 31 Plas Morlais, North Cornelly - change of use from ground floor flat to office and drop-in centre for the Communities First team.

Mr K Walburn - 27 Litchard Terrace, Litchard, Bridgend - ground floor rear extension to provide accommodation for elderly relative.

Mr G Atyeo - 14 Greenacres, South Cornelly - first floor side extension. Zia Nina Ltd - Zia Nina, 28 Dunraven Place, Bridgend - retention of existing canopy. Mr Bell - 6 Min yr Awel, Cavendish Parc, Penyfa, Bridgend - convert garage to habitable room.



# Local school pupils show enterprise, and SMILE through BIG competition!

**BRIDGEND COLLEGE** welcomed 200 pupils from four local primary schools to Heronsbridge School hall, to take part in the final heat of three competitions organised by the 'BIG' (Bridgend Innovative Group) enterprise team at the college.

The four schools were Maes Yr Haul Primary School, Litchard Junior School, Llanilltud Fawr Primary School, and Bro Ogwr Primary School, and the event was designed to highlight the college's partnerships with local Primary Schools.

In the 'SMILE' competition – the pupils were invited to design a logo for 'SMILE' to be used on the Enterprise Team's marketing material. (SMILE stands for: Students Motivate Innovative Learning via Enterprise).

From more than 200 entries, the winner was Zachie Oxtoby from Maes Yr Haul Primary School. The school received a cheque for £100, provided by 'Make your Mark', and presented by Bridgend College students.

There was also a 'Mamma Mia' technology competition. Schools worked to create their own finger puppet Mamma Mia show and each school nominated a representative to go forward to the competition final.

The judging panel selected Litchard Junior school as the winner, and a prize of £100 from Bridgend College was presented by David Bolton of Venture Wales.

Finally, in a hovercraft technology competition – each school put forward five competitors who went head-to-head with the other schools in a race area.

The winning school was Maes Yr Haul Primary School, with Llanilltud Fawr Primary School taking second place and Litchard Junior School taking both third and fourth places.

The hovercrafts were then judged on their appearance and Litchard Junior School won, and then took the overall winner prize, and a prize of £100 from Bridgend College (presented by RWE npower).



**ABOVE: The winners of the SMILE logo competition (left to right): Head of IT at Bridgend College John Morgan; deputy head of Bridgend College, Elizabeth Evans, Zachie Oxtoby from Maes yr Haul Primary School and class teacher Miss Taylor.**



**Above: County borough Mayor Coun Cleone Westwood with some of the pupils.**

**Photos by MANDY THOMAS**  
(Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347)  
[www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk](http://www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk)



**ABOVE: Michael Rhys (deputy head of engineering) starts the races.**



**ABOVE: Some of the hovercrafts.**



**Lewis John and Beth Keagle from Litchard.**



**Isaac Lewis and Alex Rowe from Maes yr Haul, with Thomas Lewis from Litchard.**



**Oliver Pugh and Ryan O'Leary from Maes-yr-Haul.**

## Newbridge Fields flooding probe

**SPECIALIST** contractors from Welsh Water are to look at the cause of flooding in Newbridge Fields, Bridgend Town Council has been told.

Coun David Unwin told members that the contractors had been called in because of on-going drainage and flooding problems at the bottom of Glanogwr steps.

BCBC is convinced that the problem is to do with Welsh Water's drainage system in the area.

"Things are moving slowly, but at least they are moving. I hope we will have an answer to this problem from their engineers by our next meeting."

## Don't pay for what's rightfully yours' – MP tells former miners

**THE MP** for Bridgend, Madeleine Moon, has warned former miners not to get caught up in contracts with legal firms for claiming a new benefit.

"I want to see every penny of any payment going into the pockets of those who deserve it – miners," Mrs Moon stated.

Some solicitors are trying to sign up likely claimants for Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) which is to be paid to miners suffering from osteoarthritis of the knee, or 'miner's knee'.

Government ministers have decided to act on the recommendation from the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council that coal miners who have worked underground for 10 years or more should be able to claim Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit for miner's knee. The scheme is expected to be up and running at the end of June.

Mrs Moon voiced her concern that some solicitors are trying to sign up claimants for an expensive service that they don't need.

"Some legal firms are trying to make money out of providing a quite unnecessary service. Claims for Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) should be made directly to the government's Department for Work and Pensions from July. The telephone number is 0845 7585433.

"There is no need to go through a solicitor. Miners or their families should certainly not be expected to pay for legal advice. If they need help,



**Madeleine Moon (on right) is pictured with Kitty Ussher MP, parliamentary under-secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions, with responsibility for industrial injuries disablement benefit.**

I would suggest that they get in touch with their union.

"For the majority of former miners in south Wales, this would be the National Union of Mineworkers (south Wales area).

"They can be contacted at their south Wales office in Pontypridd – telephone 01433 485799. There is absolutely no need to pay for advice," the MP added

## Community skips must be monitored

**ORGANISATIONS** which ask Bridgend Town Council to provide a community skip in future will have to ensure they 'police' it themselves.

Clerk Carol James told the town council that she had made enquiries with the Environment Agency about the new licensing system for skips and had been told that the council did not require a licence itself.

However, the new rules mean that the skips can only be placed in an area for two hours, and

someone must be present at all times to supervise items being tipped.

She said that if organisations could not do that, they would not be able to have a skip.

Coun David Unwin stated that the council should contact the community groups which request skips to see if they are able to comply with this requirement.

"Acland Road appears to be well-organised and we have also written to Wildmill Tenants and Residents Association about it.

"It is reasonable to expect skips to be monitored because of the health and safety rules.

We have to ensure that these sites do not become tips if the skips overflow.

"We are prepared to do skips, but somebody must take responsibility.

"This is about the community taking responsibility for things."

Mrs James said that the town council needed these assurances in writing as it could not be held liable.

She added that until written confirmation is received, all the skips are cancelled.

**LOCAL AM'S SURGERY**  
**CARWYN JONES**, AM for Bridgend, will hold a constituency surgery on May 16, from 9.30am-11.30am at Bridgend Constituency Office, Emlyn House, 36 Caroline Street, Bridgend.

**Saturday morning surgery operates with an appointments system.**

**Home visits can be arranged by contacting 01656 664320; fax 01656 6693491 email: [Carwyn.jones@wales.gov.uk](mailto:Carwyn.jones@wales.gov.uk)**



# COMPUTER LITERATE NORA (95 YEARS YOUNG!) POINTS THE WAY AT PORTHCAWL

**PORTHCAWL U3A continued its progress through the month of May with as much variety and quality activity as ever.**

During the month, the Third Age Trust, the organisation's national support and advisory body, reminded members that it is a registered charity and that all U3As are autonomous, self-help organisations run by the voluntary efforts of their members.

The word 'university' is used in its original sense of people coming together to share and pursue learning in all its forms.

Porthcawl U3A, with its monthly newsletter providing daily activity information, provides a perfect opportunity for its local members to benefit to the full.

In May, apart from the usual monthly talk by a senior police officer reviewing and relating his experience of serious crimes, members have attended a concert at St David's Hall, visited Malvern at the time of its spring flower show (organised by the flourishing gardening group) and are also due to visit Sherborne Abbey and Sherborne Castle soon after a most enjoyable visit to the Fleet Air Arm Museum last month.

The usual groups, which include computing, book club, cards and Scrabble, poetry and food in Britain, have been meeting for many years. Members attend as they wish and no qualifications are necessary.

Apart from its many and varied language, play reading and painting groups, the 'Singalong group continues to set new standards as it works towards its ever popular summer concert.

One of its regular and most enthusiastic members is Mrs Nora Jones, who is 95 years 'young'. Nora takes part in many groups and is computer literate – more than capable of surfing the world wide web, as well as emailing her family who live away.

She is at present on vacation 'looking after her grandchildren'. We attach photos of Nora showing her artistic ability with a sample of her tapestry and painting to a standard any younger person would be proud to achieve.

Nora is a fine example of how the U3A in general, and Porthcawl U3A in particular, helps to maintain both the physical and mental well being of its members.

CLIVE MORT

## Bridgend street markets survey

**A MEETING is to take place between the Bridgend Festivals Committee, borough councillors and officers to discuss their plans for street markets this year.**

Coun David Unwin told Bridgend Town Council that the survey which the town council had intended to carry out of market traders in the town had been shelved pending this meeting.

The Festivals Committee had

expressed concern about some of the questions in the survey. Some market traders have complained about the number of street markets being organised in Bridgend town centre.

Coun Unwin felt that it was important for the town council to understand all the issues before taking any further action.

Coun Eileen McIlveen said that it was an important matter and there were lots of issues.

The town council agreed to defer this matter to their next meeting.



**ABOVE:** Nora posing with her painting and **RIGHT:** posing with her tapestry work.



## The latest news from Porthcawl's Inner Wheel Club



**ABOVE:** Branwen Rees and Nina Ping.

**AFTER A lovely meal at The Rest Hotel, speaker Nina Ping, senior fundraiser executive for Action for Children, told members all about the running of the charity and said that it changed its title from NCH last year.**

The picture shows president Branwen Rees presenting a cheque for £150 to Nina Ping.

Also at the meeting, donations were handed out as follows: £100 Noah's Ark appeal; £50

Porthcawl Counselling Services; £50 Porthcawl RNLI; £50 Talking Newspapers; £50 Mayor's Fund; £50 Christian Aid ( Gaza clinic that has been destroyed); £50 Sierra Leone ( maternity services); £50 The Rest Hotel.

The next meeting is in June and the handover tea at the Atlantic Hotel is Branwen's last meeting, before handing over the chain of office to Mrs Gil Edwards.

DR

## 'Sea Holly' performed

**P O R T H C A W L** writer Robert Minihinnick, musician Richard Thomas and their multimedia band again team up for an exciting night of drama, film and music, when 'Sea Holly – a Sense of Place' is staged at the

Dylan Thomas Centre, Somerset Place, Swansea, on May 20 at 7.30pm. Tickets £4 (£3). Sea Holly (Seren Books), a novel by Robert Minihinnick, was shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize, 2008. This dramatisation is

a vivid depiction of a world of ghost trains, funfairs, sand dunes, booze, and above all, mystery.

'Sea Holly – a Sense of Place' is a Seren Books, Sustainable Wales and Welsh Books Council collaboration.

For more information, call 01656 783405.

# Unadopted road situation is 'descending into farce' 'Clochmerle' situation coming to Bridgend town council warned

**BRIDGEND risks moving into 'Clochmerle' territory, as problems over an unadopted stretch of road descend into farce.**

Bridgend Town Council was discussing the news that BCBC is refusing to repair the road and pavements between 46 Bowham Avenue and the junction with Merthyr Mawr Road, because it has never been adopted.

Coun David Unwin said it was high time that the road was adopted: "Those houses have been there for at least 20 years. It is crazy. We want this adoption to take place."

Clerk Carol James stated that the council would not adopt the road until all the repairs had been done, and it was up to the residents to sort it out.

Coun Unwin replied that they would never have a solution if that had to happen: "These residents pay the same council tax as other people, but they are not getting the same service. It's no good saying that it's not our problem."

"We should put a few heads together and sort it out," he maintained.

**'NO INTENTION'** Mrs James said that the borough had no intention of adopting the road in its present state.

Coun Unwin said that the cost of repairs should be put in black and white so that everyone could see how much was involved. "Doing nothing is not an option," he added.

However, Coun Bob Burns said that, in fact, it was an option.

"There are innumerable lengths of unadopted highway throughout the county borough. In fact, there could be miles of it."

Coun Edith Hughes felt that for the work to be done by residents,

all must agree.

"If one does not agree, the whole thing goes down the tubes."

Coun Eileen McIlveen commented that it was unsatisfactory to leave things unresolved, especially as no-one had asked the residents involved if they would be willing to pay.

Coun Unwin said that this area was a pedestrian walkway and a traffic link: "It is used by people from other areas of the borough whose roads are adopt-

ed. This is not a private road – it is a through route to the end of Newbridge Fields. If people slip and fall it will be tough luck."

Coun Roger Marsh stated that the council could ask about the regulations involved in putting the road right and then make a decision: "We must be seen to be doing something."

Coun Burns warned that the council was moving into "Clochmerle".

Coun McIlveen said that the town council

could obtain the specifications for what needs to be done.

Coun Burns warned that the town council was not a highway authority: "We are now entering an area where we have no legal or statutory responsibility. You will be lumbered."

It was agreed that the town council write to BCBC and ask about this stretch of highway.

● Clochmerle was a small French town where the residents were involved in a battle over a public un-

## Coity Road pavement is needed, town council told

**INVESTIGATIONS are to be carried out by Bridgend Town Council into the ownership of land at Coity Road.**

Coun Peter Foley said that he had been contacted by residents asking for a pavement to be created up Coity Road from the roundabout to the Tyre Centre. There has never been a pavement on that side of the street before.

He had been advised that BCBC does not own the land necessary to install a pavement here.

Coun David Unwin stated that this stretch of road included the section that used to pass in front of the old toll house. There was no highway verge at all where a pavement could be placed.

Coun Foley warned that with the recent developments like the day centre and the new flats, there was a greater need than ever for a

pavement. Coun Unwin felt that creating a pavement would entail purchasing land from the landowner involved.

"This is for the highway authority to decide and there's nothing we can do," he said.

Coun Edith Hughes moved that the council write to find out who owns the land and this was agreed.

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## Across the curriculum, across the Continent, with Spain and Germany



**ABOVE:**  
Sight-seeing from  
the visiting teachers  
in Porthcawl.

**RIGHT:**  
The visitors are  
shown around  
Heol-y-Cyw  
Primary.

**A BRIDGEND primary school has been involved in a two-year Comenius project with schools in Spain and Germany, aimed at improving international understanding.**

Pupils at Heol-y-Cyw Primary School have exchanged greeting cards, information about themselves and traditional recipes for each other to make in respective schools.

Calendars have been produced with photo-

graphs of each region for the children in each school to learn about where their new friends live.

The headteacher at Heol-y-Cyw, Lynne Bowen-Jones, told The GEM: "The children have had a great deal of fun while making and exchanging Comenius work."

Mrs Bowen-Jones and members of staff have visited the schools in Spain and Germany, and a recent exchange visit took place with a

group of Spanish and German teachers visiting Heol-y-Cyw.

The two-year project work has led to the formulation of DVDs showing Comenius activities, and the production of a book publishing all project work.

Mrs Bowen-Jones said: "Teachers have watched each other taking lessons in each school and have exchanged teaching methods and classroom practice."

"Headteachers have

compared notes, making the whole project a great success!"

The culmination of the project will come to an end in August, but one further visit awaits the staff in Heol-y-Cyw, as they have been invited back to Vilalba, near Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain to take part in carnival week.

She added: "This final visit will help us to plan our own carnival right here in Heol-y-Cyw and we can't wait to go!"

## COMBINED 'OPERATION HERCULES' IN BRIDGEND

**ON May 8-9, Bridgend neighbourhood policing team ran a combined operation with staff from Vehicle & Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and Customs & Excise Officers.**

'Operation Hercules', was led by PC Tim Low following information that a number of sites in Bridgend were being used for anti-social use of vehicles and anti-social behaviour was also occurring.

A police spokeswoman said: "There were allegations that some vehicles were fitted with illegal parts."

PC Low reported that during the operation, two teams were deployed. Over two nights, a total of 113 vehicles were stopped and checked.

As a result 11 fixed

penalty notices were issued; 47 HOJRT 1 Document Production issued; 2 CLE/26 Excise licence offences reported; 91 F351 stop reports and one red diesel fuel offence. To date, 30

VOSA. offence reports had also been issued. "Due to the success of Operation Hercules, it is envisaged that there will be future operations working in close partnership with V.O.S. A. and

Customs & Excise in order to prevent anti social behaviour occurring and to educate drivers regarding the legality of equipment fitted to their vehicles," the spokeswoman added.



**ABOVE:** Officers taking part in Operation Hercules.

## BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL NEWS IN BRIEF

**WORK is under way on the war memorial in Dunraven Place.**

Bridgend Town Council is paying for a stonemason to renovate the figure on the memorial. Coun David Unwin said it should be finished within a few weeks.

**A LITTER bin at the top of Glanogwr steps, which belongs to the town council, is to be emptied in future by their outdoor staff.**

Coun Edith Hughes said that she had received complaints that it was not being emptied.

Clerk Carol James said that BCBC staff who had been doing the work had mislaid the keys. The arrangement had always been that while the town council buys the bin, the borough empties it. The issue of the missing keys will be sorted out to ensure that the bin is emptied in future.

**PARKING problems at Ewenny Road, Bridgend, are to be raised again with the borough highways department.**

Coun Edith Hughes told Bridgend Town Council that she had received complaints about people parking along this road.

Coun David Unwin said that there was a need for the double yellow lines to be reinstated in this area following road resurfacing work. The council will write.

**FLY tipped rubbish along Heronston Lane has been removed, Bridgend Town Councillors were told.**

**Couple praised for providing loo**

**A NOVEL solution to the problems of no public toilets at a popular beach is being offered by a local business couple.**

Paula Phillips and Robin Griffiths own the Blue Seas guest house at Beach Road, Newton, Porthcawl, and have just opened the Beachside café at the premises.

They have also provided toilets which they are throwing open to holidaymakers and visitors.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Porthcawl, David and Gaynor Newton Williams, officially opened the new café.

Coun

Newton

Williams said that public toilets were sadly lacking throughout Porthcawl: "There has been a government directive in England asking pubs and restaurants to let their toilet facilities be used."

"This is a sensible initiative and I am delighted that Robin and Paula are doing it off their own bat for the good of the community."

"We do have a problem in Porthcawl and the town council is looking at various options which could include asking businesses to co-operate. It's great to see the owners of a small guest house and restaurant act in this public-spirited way," he

added.

Coun Unwin said that it was removed quickly by the borough after the complaint was made and that was good.

However, action was still needed to remove gas cylinders from private land. The cylinders had been dumped and were an eyesore. The clerk will be asked to write to the borough council again.

**SUPT DAVID DANDO**, the new commander of the merged Bridgend and Vale police divisions, is to be asked to attend the June meeting of Bridgend Town Council to share his vision of the way forward for the new super division.

**PRESSURE is to be put on the Environment Agency by Bridgend Town Council – to ensure that a drainage ditch at Ewenny Moors is working properly.**

Coun David Unwin said that the ditch affected the public footpath which was flooded if the ditch was blocked.

A joint study is being carried out by the Vale and Bridgend councils but the report is not ready.

Coun Unwin said that they should defer the matter until that report is available.

## St John's pupils in workshop



**ABOVE:** Pupils learn about the Indonesian instruments

**YEAR-6 pupils at St John's school have visited St David's Hall, Cardiff, to take part in a 'Gamelan' workshop.**

Gamelan is a term for various types of orchestra played in Indonesia, and is the main element of Indonesian traditional music.

The pupils were able to learn about the different instruments, which included sets of tuned bronze gongs, gong-chimes, metallophones and drums, and by the end of a two-hour session, played a traditional piece of music.

Remy, Will, Patrick and Luca said: "It was a lot of fun playing the Gamelan – we played all the instruments at least once and we would all love to go again!"



# 10 years on – a first hand record of how Wales can benefit from devolution

**T**EN years of action speaks louder than words" our First Minister, Rhodri Morgan AM said in his interviews to review the impact of 10 years of devolution in Wales.

I have also been reflecting on my decade of serving the Vale of Glamorgan as your Assembly Member.

During the past 10 years since the election in May 1999, I have written a column for The GEM every fortnight, so there is quite a history to review!

The First Minister has said that the Welsh Assembly Government "has earned its stripes in an eventful first decade of devolution – and Wales is a better country as a result".

He has highlighted free prescriptions, primary school breakfasts and free swimming as "made in Wales" initiatives which make a real difference to people's everyday lives.

When I was asked recently to name major achievements of the past 10 years, I drew atten-

## ASSEMBLY NOTES



**by Jane Hutt AM**  
(Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills)

Glamorgan railway line with two new stations at Rhooose and Llantwit Major, has had positive benefits in my constituency, with excellent passenger take-up – young people, commuters, families, senior citizens, as well as visitors to the Vale making full use of the service.

The 'learner travel measure', one of our new Welsh laws, has been strengthened by the contribution of the 'Stuart's Campaign' with more opportunities to shape regulations to meet with important objectives.

tion to the fact that we have appointed the UK's first Children's Commissioner and our hugely successful concessionary travel scheme – the free bus pass for the over 60s, disabled people and their carers.

The latest figures on bus passes taken up in the Vale show that the number of passes given out to eligible passengers has increased from 10,000 to 23,062 since the scheme was introduced in April 2002.

Linked to the 'transport' theme, there is little doubt that the £17million plus investment in opening up the Vale of

'Safe Routes to school' investments and 20mph limits have reduced child pedestrian accidents in Wales and there have been a number of successful schemes in the Vale.

Securing extra funding needed for the pioneering Foundation Phase 'Learning Through Play' curriculum is proving its worth, with over 2,000 extra classroom assistants appointed over

that past year in Wales and more to come, but most importantly our youngest children are benefiting.

Targeting investment to the most disadvantaged children and families in Wales has also provided an important boost in Gibbonsdown with the extra health visiting, parenting support and free child care for two year olds.

There are other developments and investments, such as £3million plus of Assembly Government money to clear the Butlins site,

fund Barry Island Coastal Seawatch centre, re-develop Holton Road and Barry Dock station and Thompson Street footbridge.

The little wins are also important, such as the Assembly funding to re-open the Clive Road Steps at Barry Island as a major breakthrough for local community action.

With the Arts Council of Wales holding their creative awards event and annual conference at the Barry Memorial Hall last month, arts and culture policies have been important.

Our funding of the 'Library for Wales' collection of classics by Welsh authors, edited by Professor Dai Smith is widely acknowledged, as is the support for the 'Beyond the Border Story Telling Festival'.

The 2008 National Year of Reading with Welsh Assembly funding for Barry as a 'reading town' has helped us make full use of our splendid new library and Arts Central.

Weaving the national and local developments over 10 years provides an important opportunity

to reflect on the challenges and achievements of ten years of devolution.

Our contribution to lead Wales out of recession is the greatest test of this decade and our economic summits are bearing fruit with our support for businesses and those who have been

hit hardest by the global recession.

But there is no question about the future – there is much more to do.

*We are on an important journey in meeting the needs of our people, our communities and our economy in Wales.*

## VALE AM'S SURGERY

VALE of Glamorgan Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, will be holding a constituency surgery on Saturday, May 16, between 10am-11am, at St Brides Major Church Hall, Southerndown Road, St Brides Major; and between 11.30am-12noon at Wick Village Hall. No appointments are necessary.

## Operation Synergy carried out in the Vale

**THE first major exercise to be launched since the merger of the Vale and Bridgend police divisions saw 39 arrests made across the new 'super division' in a two-day operation from April 30-May 1.**

Under the code name Operation Synergy, 100 officers carried out a number of tasks, ranging from executing warrants to high visibility patrols across the region and targeted outstanding suspects and wanted offenders.

On Wednesday, April 29, police in the Vale carried out three drugs warrants, making two arrests for alleged possession of Class A drugs.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams also carried out high visibility public reassurance patrols. During the day, eight checks were completed to ensure that people were complying

with their bail conditions. There was one breach reported which resulted in an arrest.

There were 12 further arrests made in the Vale during the first day of the operation. These were for a variety of offences, ranging from providing a positive breath test, to breach of the peace, thefts, burglaries and drugs offences.

During the second day of the operation, the emphasis was on public reassurance, with increased patrols across the whole of the division.

In the Vale, one vehicle was seized for no insurance, 100 leaflets were delivered by NPT officers in areas where auto-crime has been particularly high, and speed checks were also carried out which resulted in two fixed penalty notices for speeding being issued.

In tandem with this operation, police in the Vale also mounted a truancy exercise -

Operation Wildchild, when 10 'stop and account forms' were completed. Four of those stopped were truants.

They were returned to their schools and anti social behaviour referrals were issued. A further ASB referral was issued the following day.

Acting Chief Inspector Jim Hall, who led the operation with Acting Chief Inspector Jay Winslade-Gregory, said: "Operation Synergy is the first of many such initiatives which will be carried out by officers from across the new division.

"As well as developing a united team across the division, we will be focused on making the area an unwelcome place for criminals and offenders to operate.

They will always have to look over their shoulder as we become increasingly vigilant to ensure we keep the Vale (and Bridgend) a safe place for people to live, work and visit."

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# South Wales farmers show their competitive streak

**YOUNG** farmers from south Wales descended on Pencoed College for a competition day on Saturday.

Among the contests were best floral display, finest cook, best photographer, best gardener, best construction of a chicken coop, best singer, and a fancy dress section - 'one dame and her dog'!

**Photos by MANDY THOMAS**  
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## St Athan Golf Club duo celebrate two holes-in-one!

RAF St Athan Golf Club is well into its golfing season and the Sunday men's competitions are proving once again to be tremendously popular.

These competitions are done on a weekly draw basis and any junior with a handicap of 18 or under also has the privilege of competing.

May 3 saw the members playing the monthly medal and the 170-yard 6th hole was the most popular on the day for two of the players.

Stan Morris had his first ever 'hole-in-one' with a 4 iron, guaranteeing the traditional free drink in the clubhouse for fellow competitors.

RAF St Athan is a very sociable club and the gents particularly enjoy their ale! Brian Asbury ensured that

glasses could be refilled by managing to get the second 'hole-in-one' with a 6 iron.

All players on the day would like to congratulate Stan and Brian and look forward to many more 'holes-in-one'!

Latest results: April monthly medal/Dan Archer Qualifier: 1st JWG Morgan 64 net; 2nd P Rees 69 net; 3rd SP Dawes 70 net.

Welsh Team Qualifier: 1st N Waters 45 pts (OCB); 2nd SW Morris 45 pts; 3rd JWG Morgan 38 pts (OCB).

Fairwood Park Qualifier: 1st THJ Hughes 42 pts; 2nd Punter/MC Clark 61 (OCB); 2nd R

Davidge/BM Lacey 61. Douglas Bader Qualifier: 1st M Hurry/L Hurry 39 pts (OCB); 2nd S Hopkins/S Hopkins 39 pts.

Secretary's Putter: 1st GW Hughes 42 pts; 2nd S Thomas 41 pts; 3rd M Edwards 38 pts (OCB).

May monthly medal: 1st S Thomas 69 net; 2nd C Bacon 70 net; 3rd GD Thomas 71 pts.

CM



**LEFT:**  
The drinks were on Stan and Brian!



# ALTERNATIVE SEVERN BARRAGE SCHEME COULD OVERCOME LOCAL OBJECTIONS

**AN alternative Severn Barrage is being put forward – one that will not involve any road and railway construction on either side of the Bristol Channel.**

Although this project is not currently among the options being looked at by the Assembly, the man behind the plan says that he already has serious financial institutions interested in backing it, and can step in if politicians shy away from the proposed Severn Barrage.

Gareth Woodham, of the Severn Lake Company Limited, envisages a concrete causeway, 12.2 km long from Lavernock Point (Fort Road) in Wales to Brea Down (National Trust) in Somerset, England.

The existing proposals are for a concrete wall carrying turbines with a road and railway above. This means that at Sully, and on the other side of the Channel, there would be huge infrastructure projects that would need to be built.

Mr Woodham told The GEM: "The Severn Lake Causeway does not propose to run ashore at either side. It will be fully autonomous in every utility and will not have a roadway between Wales and England."

"The proposal goes further in providing a whole ribbon development within the lake that it will create."

This scheme envisages the construction of turbine galleries holding 192 turbines that will capture the tide on ebb and on flow, computer-controlled for tidal and lake height control, all designed to generate the maximum energy production.

Because electricity would be generated on both ebb and flow, the power output would be higher.

Mr Woodham says that the minimum life design

**by PHILIP IRWIN**

will be 100 years. The ambitious project includes fish passes with viewing points, and underground marine life viewing cafes.

The Causeway will also contain within its width two free-flow shipping channels able to sustain 250,000 dwt shipping. These locks will allow the unhindered passage of shipping at all available times.

To provide a clear channel for commercial shipping and to control leisure craft, islands would be moored in place, to be used as to their market needs and value.

Mr Woodham says that many extra features can be added to the causeway. He said: "Provision can be made for the addition of underground cellars that would contain organic waste."

"Made of reinforced concrete, these cellars will hold approximately 90,000 tons (each) of robotically controlled organic waste. These will provide methane gas to be burned to provide an extra electricity supply source."

With local public opposition a major factor when it comes to siting waste treatment works, Mr Woodham sees this as a green option that would add to the overall environmental benefits of the scheme.

The decomposed waste can be pelleted, and the cellars refilled. Mr Woodham claims it is possible that the facility can provide the "whole of the organic waste fill site requirement for south Wales and the south-west, in a continuing process."

Another 'green' spin-off would see off-shore wind farms close to the causeway, well away from land-based objectors, with the wind farms acting as a wind-break for the causeway.

He said: "The causeway grid provides a conven-

ient and cost effective conduit for such a scheme, and would be managed by the Severn Lake Company."

There would be a tourism spin-off too, with four marinas created, two along each shoreline. These would provide safe berthing for boats, yachts and water sports using the lake.

The Severn Lake Company would also provide a lifeboat station.

Further options based around the causeway include "private islands" to be used as luxury living accommodation, "sponsored islands" which can provide habitat for wildlife and birds, and fishing and diving islands with temporary accommodation.

Mr Woodham said: "The company would look to promote tourism and provide free electricity and / or gas to all lake transport suitably equipped. (This would include Cardiff Bay, Newport, Gloucester, Bristol, Portishead and Weston-Super-Mare)."

The Causeway would contain ports on both sections to initially deal with construction and latterly to accept waste and the utility and service of the causeway itself.

The causeway would have its own water supply through its own desalination plant.

The extremities of the causeway, with allowances for fish passes would be designed landscaped in consultation with the local authorities in Wales and the National Trust in Somerset.

Mr Woodham said: "The building of the causeway would provide a huge new environment more suited to life on a live lake."

"The French at Le Rance, and with hydro schemes we have looked at in Avignon, and others, have led the way and will provide copy-cat systems of fish pass, level control and upper erosion

protection.

"The Severn Lake Company intend to manage the lake to encourage sustainable fish stocks and varied aquatic life, and will look to work with the RSPB to provide some of the compensatory habitat described as a condition by the Sustainable Development Commission."

In the planning process, the Severn Lake Company will argue that the provision of renewable power is in the national interest.

Mr Woodham insisted that the actual building of the causeway described has no particular engineering hurdles. It is likely that in the design, certain sections can be installed and working before others.

He added that exact details of this are subject to commercial confidentiality. He said that it is estimated that between four and six yards in the UK and Netherlands could build the cellars.

Employment at its height could be some 30,000, over some five to seven years.

Mr Woodham admitted: "The most difficult part of the project is the politics and the planning and consent procedures."

"With the introduction of this 'whole' development and given the increases in the returns for energy, and waste disposal, the viability of the project will be shown to be attractive to medium and long term investors".

Although the project will save money by doing away with the need for massive construction projects at Sully and Brea Down, the extra features associated with this scheme means that it will not be any cheaper than the existing Severn Barrage proposal.

Further information on The Severn Lake project can be obtained from [www.severnlake.co.uk](http://www.severnlake.co.uk)

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## Stamp winners

THE winners of our recent competition were:

Mr R Crockett, Barry Island; Mr Close, Barry; Mrs Davies, Rhosce; Rachel Frizell, Porthcawl; Nadine Adams, Dinas Powys; Mrs M Lacey, Barry; Mari Hughes Ely; Suzanne Rees, Bridgend; Arthur Robins, Cowbridge; JD Price, Bridgend; Mr G Williams, Llanblethian; Kathy Edwards, Dinas Powys; Shan Llewellyn, Coychurch; A Evans, Cowbridge; Jeffrey Pascoe, Pontyclun; Mrs Turner, Llantwit Major; Taing Phillips, Llanharan; Mrs Banks, St Athan; Ms SE Ware, East Atherthaw; Theresa Thomas, Barry.

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## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number 565.

● £2000: 186021. ● £500: 256753. ● £100: 779418. ● £50: 230161. ● £10: 704457, 783798, 645852, 314184, 693721, 772505, 626700, 732988, 197400, 143079, 432425, 623773, 423458, 536375, 474527, 291882, 265674, 599540, 488877, 441821. ● £5: 699379, 830025.

125317, 841639, 645967, 543373, 253985, 673096, 128731, 110476, 236157, 294018, 508229, 675151, 242850, 313227, 130674, 199912, 249486, 283045, 220475, 651391, 512580, 400128, 229328, 187488, 259530, 106751, 178703, 806878.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

## ROW, ROW, ROW, for the Ty Dyfan residential home



MEMBERS from Barry College's work based training agency the Vale of Glamorgan Training Association (VGTA) raised more than £500 for Ty Dyfan residential home in a sponsored row.

A spokesman reported: "The VGTA Prince's Trust team rowed for five hours on rowing machines at Barry leisure centre and covered 67,600 metres – the equivalent of rowing from Dover to Calais and back again. "They raised slightly more than £500, which was used to take resi-

dents from Ty Dyfan out bowling, for a pub lunch and a trip to St Fagans National History Museum. The team also spent two days in the centre entertaining residents with bingo, quizzes and sing-alongs".

The charity event was organised as part of the Prince's Trust

'Team Challenge' - one of a series of events during the 12 week team programme delivered in the Vale by VGTA, which also includes a week's residential course where learners get involved in various outdoor pursuits such as rock climbing, coasteering and abseiling.

## CAN YOU HELP BOW OR PATCH TO FIND A NEW CARING HOME?

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

**THIS WEEK: Bow and Patch.** Bow is an eight-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

He is a really sweet dog with a lovely nature, who sadly found himself with us after his owner passed away.

"He enjoys his walks and having a run in the field before going back and chilling out in his comfy bed!"

"He's housetrained and good on the lead and is very friendly and playful. He is suitable with children aged six years and over. He's never lived with another dog, so is best suited as the only dog in the home."

If you would like more information on Bow, Patch or any of the



ABOVE: "I'm Bow"

other dogs who are looking for a good home, you can visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend or telephone 01656 725219. (Bow and some of his friends are on the website at [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk), (click on Rehoming).

**PATCH** is a sweet little lad, who can be a little worried and sensitive at times.

He will benefit from further socialising to increase his confidence, because once he comes out of himself he's a lot of fun and enjoys running around the field with his canine friends.

He's a young dog, so he will need plenty of exercise to prevent him from getting bored and he will enjoy some basic training.

He's had an unsettled life so far and will thank someone who can welcome him into a home, and give him time to settle in.

He'll suit someone who has owned terriers



ABOVE:

'Sweet' Patch is the sensitive type.

before. He can live with children aged eight years and over. We don't know what he's like around cats but he gets on well with other dogs!

## Greener, healthier lifestyle

BRYNMOR EVANS from the Bridgend Veggie Info Centre will be available at SUSSED, 92 John Street, Porthcawl, from 2pm-4pm, on May 18; 3pm-5pm, May 19 and 10am-12noon on May 22, to talk to people interested in greener, healthier lifestyle.

SUSSED will be offering 10 per cent off all Vegetarian Society and Vegan Society-approved products. Free vegetarian recipes will also be available.

## 'Cuppa with a copper'

PENCOED Neighbourhood Policing Team offer a 'cuppa with a copper' at Pencoed Welfare Hall, 1pm-3pm, on Tuesday, June 1. All welcome.

ABOVE: The Prince's Trust Team rowing at Barry Leisure Centre and taking Ty Dyfan residents to St Fagans for a day out.

## TAX HELP

THE Inland Revenue tax help desks will be at the Healthy Eating Shop, Age Concern, Holton Road, Barry (10am-12pm) and Room 2 ground floor, Council Offices, West House, Penarth (1pm-3pm) on May 21.

For further information contact Julie John, Cardiff Tax Enquiry Centre, Ty-Glas, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5FN on 02920 326506 (fax 02920 689133).



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## Book traces history of the Llwydarth Tinplate works

A BOOK has just been published on the history of one of the least known industries in the Llynfi Valley.

Maesteg has well-known links to both the iron industry and to coal mining, but few people know that it was also a tinplate town.

The Llwydarth Tinplate works opened in the Llwydarth area of the town in 1868 and remained in operation until 1900.

Its history has been researched by David Lewis – a grandson of the local historian David Davies, who wrote *Ty'r Llwyni*.

Mr Lewis, a retired teacher, published the book himself earlier this year, but it has now been reprinted by the Llynfi Valley Historical Society and is on sale at Welsh Knitting Crafts in the Bowington Arcade for £3.50p.

Mr Lewis, who has also written books on the coal and iron industries

in the town, was brought up in Garn Road and has always been conscious of the industrial history of the valley – thanks to his grandfather.

He said: "I am conscious of how much easier it is for me to do historical research than my grandfather who had no car, no telephone or typewriter – and certainly no computer and internet."

"He wrote about the tinplate works because he worked there. He would talk about his memories of the 19th century, as he was born in 1876 and moved to Maesteg from Port Talbot in 1895. He could remember so many things about the town."

Mr Lewis, who taught geography and history at Cynffig Comprehensive School for over 30 years, said that the Llwydarth tinplate works, which were located on land now occupied by the Park View estate, were an entirely home-grown affair.

"At its peak in the 1870's and 1880's, it had



David Lewis holds up a copy of his book on the Llwydarth Tinplate Works of Maesteg

five rolling mills and employed almost 500 workers. It was ranked 11th in importance out of 45 other works.

"There was a huge market for iron and later steel coated with tin for the canning industry, especially in America. It was also in demand as a roofing material."

Mr Lewis stated that local entrepreneurs headed by David Grey found-

ed the works.

"The coal and iron industries were set up by outsiders but the tinplate works were locally owned."

"It was a temperance works and all the owners belonged to the local Calvinistic Methodist chapels. David Grey, who lived in Underhill Villa in Cwmfelin, was in Libanus while Thomas Thomas, one of the other founders, was in Tabor."

"He was the father of Dr WH Thomas of Brongam and the great-grandfather of Dr Noel Thomas."

"Another partner was David Phillips, minister of Tabor," he added.

They also brought in William Williams, from Morriston, who had experience in the industry.

They purchased the land, which was then part of Llwydarth Farm. It adjoined the main valley railway line and an old woollen mill on the site moved down to Gadlys Farm, Llangynwyd.

Mr Lewis has lived in Llansamlet since his marriage in 1975, but returns to Maesteg as often as possible.

"I had a fantastic education at Plasnewydd Primary school and my teacher was Harry Stephens," he said.

"We were doing work at that age which much older children would find hard today. It gave me a wonderful start."

He later attended Maesteg Grammar School and Swansea University. He ended his teaching career as head of geography at Cynffig.

## Air Ambulance first shop hits £20k in Bridgend

THE Wales Air Ambulance, which opened its first shop in Bridgend's Adare Street, has taken £20,000 in its first month.

The success means that stocks of donated items are already running low and the charity is appealing for any unwanted items to help keep the shop going.

"Bric-a-brac, furniture and clothes are needed and Wales Air Ambulance offers a free collection service for all donations," said shop manager Caroline Marshall.

"We are thrilled by the support Bridgend has shown for its new Wales Air Ambulance shop, and I would like to thank everyone who donated unwanted goods or bought items in-store."

"The shop stays open with the help of local volunteers, and we are also very much in need of donated time."

"If anyone has a few hours to spare and would like to help out with this exciting venture, please get in touch."

For more information, telephone the Bridgend shop on 07811 270921, or the Wales Air Ambulance fundraising office on 0844 85 84 999.

## Used drugs needles dumped on wasteland

THIRTY used needles were found dumped on wasteland in Bridgend, Coun Peter Foley told Bridgend Town Council.

He said that the needles, which had been used for drugs, were dumped on land leading to Coity Sidings and Wildmill Railway Station.

The nearby cemetery was also being used by drug takers and abandoned needles had been found there.

"When I went to this area, there were discarded needles everywhere! It was a dreadful sight. I

reported it to the police and within 24 hours, all the needles had been removed."

"We should send a letter expressing our gratitude for the prompt action taken."

Coun Foley stated that seeing these needles had convinced him that Bridgend had a real drugs problem.

Coun Maisy Williams recalled that many years ago when she was head of the old Ysgol Gymraeg Penybont, which was located between the bus station and Mackworth Street, she had to telephone the police some mornings because of needles being

found in the yard".

"We had to get it cleared up because we had primary school children coming into the yard," she said.

Coun Bob Burns felt that drugs were not a Bridgend problem *per se*. "I have worked in Cardiff Bay and there were problems there as well. This is a social problem that needs all agencies to get involved in. Workmen need special equipment to pick them up," he said.

Coun Roger Marsh claimed that a lot of drug trafficking had been stamped out in Wildmill. "Police have had some big scores. They found

one dealer growing cannabis plants in an attic. Cables were attached to electric lights outside. I don't think it can be totally stamped out, but it can be reduced."

"You close down one area and it springs up somewhere else," he said.

"People ask what the police are doing. They are watching and gathering evidence and then they go in heavy handed. They have been very successful."

"In the past, we used to see drug deals taking place on the pavements in broad daylight. That's long gone. It is now going on behind closed doors or in areas not very public."

"Coity Sidings has been popular for some time. There are also people sleeping rough there."

## Children and Residents enjoy the Oakwood fun day

THERE was fun all round at a special day organised for children and residents of Oakwood Estate, Maesteg.

The event was organised by Valleys to Coast Housing Association and a clean-up was organised of the estate and the river, helped by members of the Llynfi Rivercare Group and Keep Wales Tidy.

There were activities for the children including games, face painting, music and food.

The event was attended by Ogmere AM Janice Gregory and

Ogmere MP Huw Irranca-Davies.

A ceremony to unveil a new name plate and welcome sign was also staged.

The new sign will inform visitors that they have arrived at the estate which is located beyond the Ewenny Road industrial estate. It will help give the estate its own identity.

Local youngsters Christian Wootton and Liam Squires gave up their evenings to work with V2C and an artist

commissioned by the council to put the design of the sign together. They cut the ribbon to unveil the sign.

Coun Ross Thomas was one of those present.

"Residents had a chance to talk to councillors and one of the main issues was that the community house is empty and unused at the moment," he said.

"People want to see it being put to good use for the community at Oakwood."

**CIVIC TRUST COFFEE**  
PORTHCAWL Civic Trust is staging a coffee morning next Thursday to raise its profile.

The event takes place at the Atlantic Hotel on May 21, at 10.30am and tickets are priced at £1.

Secretary Caroline Vaughan said that all were welcome.

"We are running a raffle and holding a cake stall to raise funds," she added.

## Residents plea for road exit deferred

A REQUEST from residents at Oddfellows Street, Bridgend, for a direct exit into Tremains Road has been deferred.

Bridgend Town Council had passed the request to Bridgend County Borough Council which wrote back to say that no decision could be taken until the cabinet has approved new criteria for deciding priorities for road safety measures.

At the moment, there are 300 schemes on the waiting list.

The council has used personal injury accident figures to draw up its priorities but cabinet wants to introduce other criteria when considering how the limited budget should be allocated.

In a letter to the town council, John Duddridge, group manager for transportation and engineering, said that the request for a new exit and a one-way system had been investigated.

At the moment, the street is a cul-de-sac with a turning head, but there is no off-street parking and the road width is very restricted.

The only viable option would be to continue the road through the turning head to come out onto Tremains Road opposite

the existing junction with Ogmere Terrace.

However, investigations had revealed that there was a 'significant' difference in road levels between Oddfellows Road and Tremains Road.

The scheme would entail extensive road construction plus the felling of trees. The costs would be considerable without even looking at land ownership and tree

preservation orders.

Mr Duddridge said he could not authorise this work after taking into account the costs, legal implications and the possible environmental impact. Nothing more could be done until after the review of policy.

Coun David Unwin said that this should be deferred until after the cabinet had drawn up its new criteria.

## Town councillor hits out at bus timetables reply

A REPLY sent by Bridgend County Borough Council to Bridgend Town Council about bus timetables had been written "by someone who has obviously never been on a bus".

That was the view of Coun David Unwin, commenting on CBC's e-mail, responding to the town council's request to put bus timetables on the agenda of the town and community council forum.

The response stated that bus timetables did not come under the coun-

cil's remit and could not be considered by the forum.

However, Coun David Unwin said that CBC had totally misunderstood what the council was saying.

"We were asking about the displaying of timetables in cases at bus stops in the county borough. To say that they have no responsibility for that is nonsense."

"We should write to them again in words of one syllable to get them to understand what is happening."

"The response was obviously written by someone who has never been on a bus in his life."

## Marathon runner Chris gives the lifeboat funds a big boost

PORTHCAWL lifeboat volunteers have been given a £2,500 boost by local businessman Chris Ellis.

To keep fit, Chris, who recently celebrated his 45th birthday, decided to run the London Marathon in aid of the RNLI as he lives in Porthcawl and greatly appreciates the work the Lifeboat volunteers carry out.

Chris and his two daughters have also taken up surfing as a hobby, which made them aware of the powerful sea conditions prevailing around Porthcawl.

"Exhausting but exhilarating" was how Chris described his experience in the 2009 Flora

London Marathon.

Originally from Porth in the Rhondda, Chris, his wife Julie and two daughters live in Newton, Porthcawl. The managing director of One Life Financial Planning Ltd, a firm of independent financial advisers based in John Street, Porthcawl, said: "So far the amount raised is £2,507, but I am confident of a few more sponsorship payments yet to be collected for the RNLI. By completing the Marathon on April 26, I felt my efforts were justified in knowing that the money raised was going to a good cause, one that I believe deserves support. Besides the satisfaction of completing the marathon in just over five hours, I am grateful

to all who sponsored me and my family for being there in London and encouraging me on towards the finishing line."

Spokesperson for Porthcawl RNLI, Ian Stroud said: "As the RNLI relies solely on donations, the money raised by Chris is greatly appreciated, especially in the current economic period."

"Most of Porthcawl Lifeboat Station's work is inshore, assisting surfers, small fishing craft etc. Chris and his daughters may well see us in action when enjoying their surfing activities."

Chairman of Porthcawl RNLI, John Abraham commented: "One of my key responsibilities is fundraising

on behalf of the RNLI and this donation by Chris came as a very welcome surprise."

"It would help towards crew training. Porthcawl Lifeboat Station is taking delivery of a new lifeboat, an 'Atlantic 85' later this month. The £160,000 lifeboat, which is the newest and fastest of inshore lifeboats, carries a crew of four on rescue missions."

"In the next few weeks, all volunteer crew will undergo intensive training on the handling of the new lifeboat. The 'Atlantic 85' will be a great asset to Porthcawl, and will be operational in time for our busiest time of the year," he added.



# Homes & Gardens

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## Home improvement company MPN accepted by standards group

**L**OCAL home improvement company MPN uPVC Windows, Doors and Conservatories has been accepted as a member of the respected trade organisation Network VEKA. MPN is a family-run

business, made up of a husband, wife and son team.

The company had to go through rigorous vetting before being accepted as a member.

Managing director Paul Webster explained that this is only the beginning of the scrutiny they must now undergo: "The whole principle of network VEKA is the standard of quality and integrity that it sets for its members."

"The organisation will not only run a regular audit of factors such as our staff training and use of guarantees, but it will actually survey every one of our future customers to monitor how good a job we have done."

"It's a tough regime but we are sure we are up to it."

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# Homes & Gardens

## IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR GARDEN IS SECURE

**W**ITH longer daylight hours and warmer weather, the Safer Vale Partnership is running a month long operation throughout May aimed at

reducing shed burglaries and advising the public on improving the security of their sheds and gardens.

Known as Operation Target, it has been backed by the Safer Vale Partnership which has provided 450 shed alarms which will be distributed to victims of shed burglaries.

Anyone who is unfortunate enough to become the victim of a shed burglary will be visited by their local PCSO, who will be able to provide specific advice regarding preventing garden crime.

Coun Paul Church, chairman of the Safer Vale Partnership said: "The Safer Vale Partnership is committed to reducing crime and reducing the fear of crime. Operation Target has been put in place to help prevent the community from being a victim of crime."

Vale of Glamorgan Crime Prevention officer, PC Dick Collins, said: "With lighter nights and the desire to be outside more, people start to enjoy new activities particularly in the garden without thought for any crime opportunities that they are creating."

"If someone can get into your garden easily without attracting suspicion, it gives them more time to steal from you. Are your fences and gates in good repair? Do you have security lighting? Do you leave things outside all year which could be

removed easily or used to break into your house? Secure them in position or fill with heavy gravel to prevent easy carrying.

"Are there overgrown areas where someone could hide? Cut them back so you can see what's going on. Ideally, shrubs should be below one metre and trees cropped to a height of three metres in areas near buildings where people could otherwise hide.

"Gravel on paths and driveways can alert you to someone approaching so intruders will not be so keen. Prickly plants and trellis can provide extra protection from the intruder," said PC Collins.

"Without realising it, you probably have a lot of valuable property in your sheds and outbuildings and you don't pay as much attention to security as you should. Power tools, lawnmowers, cycles and golf clubs for example are all expensive to replace and attractive to thieves.

"Shed doors are notoriously easy to get into, so

strengthen the door and frame if you can. Outside door hinges should be secured with coach bolts or non-return screws. Use strong pad-bars and close shackle padlocks. Five lever mortise locks are the best on normal solid doors.

"You should also check windows. Is the glass cracked but you haven't got round to replacing it? You could use Perspex or polycarbonate sheet if well fixed.

"Use a window lock on opening windows and a strong grille or heavy wire mesh. Consider using net curtains to deter casual viewing."

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## Vi has a very short back and sides – for Picton Court!



**A 76-year-old resident of Picton Court residential home at Porthcawl has just had her head shaved - again!**

Violet Ida Saintry, who comes originally from Portsmouth, but lived in Cardiff for 50 years working with the Salvation Army, regularly has her head shaved to raise funds for the home.

Vi raised £300 in sponsorship for the home with her latest shave, which was carried out free of charge by Diane Harry of Creating Waves, mobile hairdresser.

Lynn Nash, activities co-ordinator at Picton Court, said that Vi was a huge supporter of the fund raising at the home.

"She is a lovely lady and has a great sense of humour. Not only does she have her head shaved twice a year, she also knits blankets for us to sell at our fetes. She is truly a star."

Vi would like to thank resident's daughter Eileen Torkington for her help in getting the sponsorship forms out to visitors.

The Picton Court fete is being held on Saturday May 30, starting at 2.30pm. Activities include a bouncy castle, beer tent, cake stall, face painting, books, CD's and DVD's, and refreshments.

All proceeds will go to the Picton Court Residential Activities Fund.

PICTURES BY KEITH E MORGAN

## CHURCHES TOGETHER SEND JOINT MESSAGE OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

ON May 10, to mark the beginning of Christian Aid Week, Churches Together in Porthcawl, held a united service on the theme of faith, hope, and love at Methodist/United Reformed Church.

A multi-media presentation, undertaken by Phil and Izzy Stinton, told of the work of Christian Aid in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and encouraged people to consider the impact of climate change in the poorest countries of the world.

Hymns were chosen to represent the traditions of the faith communities in Porthcawl: Laura sang of Love, Elish invoked the Love of Christ to bring healing, and the young people from many churches, through a film they had prepared, helped us to consider the Scripture readings in a new light.

The service ended in a silent sharing of faith, when candles of hope were lit and messages of love were sent to 14 Aid workers, including local ministers Father Pat



Cashin and Rev Paul Floe, both of whom are working in Africa at this time.

Our thanks go to all who helped to make this a meaningful and united act of worship, and to the many volunteers who will be distributing Christian Aid envelopes during Christian Aid week.

LP

**ABOVE:** The team involved with the service: Left to right, Doris Sadeghi, Church in Wales Porthcawl; Rev Phillip Masson, Church in Wales Porthcawl; Rev Jean Humphreys, Trinity Methodist and United Reformed Church, Porthcawl; Rev Jonathon Durley, Church in Wales, Porthcawl; Rev Rosan Saunders, Tabernacle Church, Porthcawl; Rev Anthony Martin, Stella Maris, of the Roman Catholic Church, Porthcawl.



**ABOVE:** The communion in progress. PICTURES BY KEITH E MORGAN

## NEW VEHICLE FOR LOCAL CHARITY

**BRIDGEND Samaritans have taken delivery of their new vehicle which will be taken into Bridgend town centre on Friday and Saturday nights.**

Coun David Unwin told Bridgend Town Council that the vehicle would replace one the local Samaritans had been borrowing from another Samaritans' group.

The organisation has been putting a vehicle into the town centre to offer counselling to young people in the wake of the spate of suicides in the area last year.

Coun Unwin said that this purpose-built vehicle was a huge asset to the area, and he welcomed the news that it would now be deployed every weekend.

## Antiques fair

**AN antique and collectors fair will be held at The Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, on Sunday, May 24.**

There will be many interesting items on display.

Entrance £1, open 10am-4pm.

## The Bridgend Inner Wheel go on a tour of Westminster



LAST week, members of Bridgend's Inner Wheel Club visited the Houses of Parliament where members enjoyed an informative tour and met local MP, Madeleine Moon.

The Inner Wheel Club's members work together to help those

less fortunate than themselves in the UK and overseas.

"It was great to meet the members of this excellent organisation. They work very hard in our community and I hope they enjoyed their tour of Parliament," the MP said.



# Sand dredging is to cease off Porthcawl

NEWS that sand dredging off Porthcawl is to stop next year has been welcomed.

Gary Victor of Porthcawl Shout said that a letter has been received from Welsh Environment minister Jane Davidson stating that dredging at the Nash Bank off Porthcawl will cease next February when the current licence expires and no further extensions to the licence will be granted.

"The last licence allowed a further 5.4 million tonnes of sand to be extracted over seven years, he pointed out.

"I have calculated that more than 110 million tonnes of sand has been removed in total from the Bristol Channel during the past 50 years with the greatest amount being taken from the Nash Bank."

Mr Victor said that the news would not result in any improvement to beaches around Porthcawl in the foreseeable future.

"There are complex local

coastal currents which carry suspended sand with each tide," he went on. It is possible that beaches like Rest Bay will continue to lose sand for many years as nature tries to replenish the sand dredged and removed from the Nash Bank."

He warned that rising sea levels and future storm surges that are being predicted could have a further destructive effect on local beaches.

Caroline Vaughan, secretary of the Porthcawl Environment Trust, stated that the beaches had suffered a considerable loss of sand as a result of dredging.

"Sand is a finite reserve and the huge quantities that have been removed can never be replaced.

"I just hope that the Welsh Assembly Government now sticks to its guns and refuses any applications for further extensions to this dredging licence.

"Ministers must have the courage to resist any commercial pressures to allow this to go on."

## Townswomen's 80th birthday coffee...



Members of the Porthcawl branch of the Townswomen's Guild recently celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Townswomen's Guild with a free coffee morning at the Porthcawl YMCA.

In the picture (above) are Dee Richardson, vice-chairman; Shirley Masterman, Dorothy Thomas, secretary; Maureen Williams and Freda Rodger, chairman. KEM

## Shoppers welcome new town store opening



Local residents patiently wait for the new B&M store to officially open in what was the old Woolworths shop. KEM

## MAYOR OPENS EXHIBITION



In front of a crowd of enthusiastic supporters, the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun David Newton-Williams (a keen artist in his own right) officially opened the Silures Civic exhibition.

The exhibition will be open at weekends and the upcoming Bank Holiday, 11am-4.30pm, at the Silures Art Gallery, 40 South Road, Porthcawl, up to the end of May. Throughout the year, the Silures Art Gallery will be holding a series of interesting exhibitions by different artists that will conclude with the annual Silures Christmas exhibition. KEM

Pictures on this page by Keith E Morgan are denoted by the initials KEM.



## Molly wins music scholarship



Porthcawl schoolgirl Molly Dyer has been awarded a choral scholarship at the Cathedral School, Llandaff. She is pictured here with her grandmother, uncles Tom and Allan Jones and Rev Richard Spencer. KEM



## Saluting the Heroes in Bridgend!

IT takes courage to discuss the finer merits of ceramic tiles dressed in full military uniform – but that's just what the brave folks at Topps Tiles Bridgend will be doing on Saturday, May 16.

It's all in a great cause and money raised will support the work of the charity Help for Heroes, who fund vital services for members of the armed forces wounded in Afghanistan.

"We got the idea as a mark of respect for real soldiers, sailors and airmen – the true heroes who sometimes need our help," said store manager Matt King. "These men and women willingly risk everything in the line of duty and, by raising money for Help for Heroes, we are doing our bit so the wounded can have the support they desperately need to reclaim their lives."

VJ



Pictured are Andrew Winterburn (representing the Navy); Matt King (in RAF uniform) and Jon Woodroff (representing the Army). The tank was made by Andrew and Matt.





# Local Newspaper Week

11-17 MAY 2009

NS the voice of local media

building stronger communities

## To our readers and advertisers

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## The vital role that local papers play in society

**L**ocal Newspaper Week 2009 (May 11 - 17) features high profile figures from across the UK who are rallying to the support of local newspapers and their vital role within the community.

Television presenters John Humphrys and John Sergeant have given video messages of support to the local press in celebration of the week.

In addition, 18 members of the Scottish parliament have pledged their support for local newspapers by signing a Local Newspaper Week 2009 motion.

MSPs applauded the significant investment made by local newspaper publishers to deliver to an increasingly digital agenda and enhance their digital audience.

Radio and television presenter John Humphrys kicked off his journalistic career on a number of local titles in Wales.

He said: "Local newspapers hold local authorities to account. Whether you're reporting the local court or council, local papers bring the way the community works into everybody's home."

"If we don't have local newspapers, who is going to do that? If people don't know what is going on in their community, how are they going to hold to account the people that run their lives? In the end, that is the point of local newspapers. They are essential."

Starting out at the Liverpool Echo, television and radio journalist John Sergeant stresses the importance of local newspapers in maintaining the vitality of a community:

"Local papers are not just amazing training grounds for people like me, but they also infuse the community with that lifeblood of information, democracy and informed comment. Without local newspapers, you don't get a proper sense of community; you get no ordinary way of living."

### Top local media facts:

- Eighty-two per cent of adults, 40 million people, read a local newspaper, making it the most widely read medium in the country (BMRB/TGI 2008).

- As a source of information about the local area in which people live, local newspapers are three times more popular than the next medium, BBC TV news. (Press Gazette/YouGov 2007)

- There are 1,300 local newspapers and 1,200 associated websites in the UK.

- Local newspapers and their associated websites are 49 per cent more trusted and relied upon than the nearest medium, commercial TV (the wanted ads III 2007).

- Advertising on local newspaper websites is 77 per cent more likely to be believed and relied upon than advertising on other websites (the wanted ads III 2007).

- 74.6 per cent of people aged between 15 and 24 read a local newspaper (BMRB/TGI 2008).

## The GEM is setting the trend for many years to come

**T**he world of print and broadcast journalism is in chaos. Across the globe, newspapers, radio and television stations are closing down at an alarming rate.

It's bad news for all aspects of human life because these organs of communication are vital, disseminating information and the welfare of democracies.

Sadly, nations far and wide are feeling the chill wind of decline in the media, accelerated by the worldwide credit crunch and exacerbated also by lifestyle changes and the switch to new media which is replacing the printed word.

The current fashion is for newspapers to be replaced by teletext, e-mail, mobile phones and a plethora of other new media.

Among the young, the habit of reading conventional newspapers has become old hat, with iPhones, mobiles, teletext and other processes taking their place. In short, it almost seems that the world has become too busy to give time to the serious purpose of reading and absorbing rational debate.

The quest for brevity and immediacy outweighs the principles on which most folk were

by MIKE MEREDITH

raised and nurtured.

One exception to the rule is the Tindle Newspaper Group, in which The Glamorgan GEM has become a shining star.

In a relatively short space time, not much more than 25 years in fact, The GEM has become the dependable voice of the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend. It out-circulates most other titles in its domain.

It is run with the sound objective of putting news first in its order of priorities. Others would do well to follow its example, for it has become enormously successful within the very considerable Tindle stable.

Good journalism, sound management and an ear to the ground on all issues affecting its territory have made The GEM the valued newspaper it is today.

*Decades, and even centuries ago, newspapers began their lives as free sheets and it seems likely the clock will be turned back once more. With its feet firmly on the ground and its eye on the ball, The GEM seems certain to be a beacon in south Wales for years to come.*

## 'Give local papers your full support'

by PIERS MORGAN



**"I LEARNED my journalistic craft on the Streatham and Tooting News, the Wimbledon News, and the Sutton Herald, and realised from my daily reporting life over that two year period just how important local newspapers are to a community."**

*"They're the lifeblood and the heartbeat of towns and cities up and down the country, and educate, inform and entertain local residents in equal measure in a way that national newspapers never can."*

*"In these difficult times, it is imperative that local papers are given all the support they need to survive and thrive."*

## High Street traders thank The GEM for its coverage

**O**n behalf of High Street traders, I would like to thank The GEM for its ongoing coverage and support of our events.

Not only have you promoted the Christmas lights, and last year's new Victorian Fayre, and the Easter Bonnet Parade well in advance to inform the Barry and Vale public of what is planned, you have followed up the initial publicity with full reports and pages of pictures.

High Street traders could not ask for better coverage, and we have also found it pays to advertise in The GEM.

The support of the Vale public and The GEM is what makes these events such a success.

People can keep an eye out for our next event knowing exactly where it will be reported!

Thanks again.  
 Tony Hopkins, Chairman, High Street Traders Association Ltd

### BARRY TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

The Town Mayor of Barry,  
 (2008-2009)  
 Councillor

**STUART EGAN**

would like to thank

The Glamorgan GEM for the excellent coverage during his year in office.  
*"As always, The GEM has enhanced its deserved reputation as a successful community newspaper."*



**JANE HUTT, AM**

celebrating ten years of working with

**The Glamorgan GEM**

as the Vale of Glamorgan Assembly Member

The GEM provides comprehensive editorial news across the whole of the Vale of Glamorgan and is an important source of news for all our communities.

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council  
 Councillor Audrey Preston  
 wishes to congratulate

**The Glamorgan GEM**

on their reporting of local news and community issues and thanks them for their support during her year of office.



Hoffai Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y  
 Cynghorydd Audrey Preston  
 longyfarch aelodau staff

**Y Glamorgan GEM**

ar eu gwaith yn cyflwyno newyddion lleol a materion cymunedol, a diolch iddynt am eu holl gefnogaeth yn ystod ei blwyddyn yn y swydd.

### Congratulations to

**The GEM**

for serving the Community.

I hold regular surgeries throughout the Vale.

Alternatively please contact me at



**Chris Franks, Plaid Cymru Assembly Member**

The National Assembly for Wales,  
 Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA.

Telephone 02920 922578

or e-mail christopher.franks@wales.gov.uk







# Local Newspaper Week

11-17 MAY 2009

NS the voice of local media

building stronger communities

## Pupils say what the widely-travelled GEM means to them

By ANDREW CLISSETT  
of Barry Comprehensive School

### 'THE GEM IS HELPING PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS...'

**T**HE Barry Comprehensive School has enjoyed a close relationship with The Gem for many years; a relationship we think has been beneficial to both institutions.

The achievements of the pupils of Barry Comprehensive feature weekly in The Gem, and frequently the articles and photographs making it into

print are produced by the pupils.

The pupils, and their families, are also readers of The Gem and are always on the lookout for articles and pictures about themselves or their fellow pupils.

We asked some of the pupils who have been featured in The Gem recently to tell us what appearing in the newspaper meant to them.

These are some of the replies we received:

"I feel very proud when I see myself in the newspaper. My family congratulate me and my Nan cuts out the article and puts it in a memory

book. It is very nice to know that the town can recognise you for the good things that you have done.

"It gives you a morale boost and you try your hardest to be in the newspaper again. This is very important for people who try to achieve their dreams because it gives them a 'well-done'."

– Daniel Saunders, Year 9

"I recently took part in a Rotary photography competition and my parents and friends at home in Hungary were delighted to see my photograph in The GEM –

so you see, the newspaper travels the world!"

– Doniz Simon, Year 12 Exchange Student

"When I was in the basketball photo in The GEM I was really pleased. My parents saw the picture and the article and had the page laminated. They also scanned the page and sent it to all my relatives, and my little cousins see it and recognise me as a role-model."

– Rhys West, Year 11

"It was the first time in my life that I had been in a newspaper. It was brilliant and my family at home in

Thailand really liked it"

– Potsawee Wetphanit, Year 12 Exchange Student

"The Barry GEM published an article about mine and other students exchange year here in Barry. I sent the article home all the way to the Czech Republic so my friends and family can see what a great time I'm having.

"Now this article can be proudly displayed in Plasska 97 on our mantelpiece."

– Tereza Machacova, Year 12 Exchange Student



ABOVE: Barry Comprehensive School pupils catch up on all the local news in The GEM.

#### THE COMMUNITY SHOP

9-13 Cowbridge Rd, PONTYCLUN are proud to be staunch supporters of **The Glamorgan GEM** which is avidly collected by news-hungry 'locals' from their shop every week!

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#### COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

would like to invite you to the Art, Design and Technology Exhibition of A and AS Level and GCSE work which is being held at the Middle School site, Aberthin Road on Thursday 4th June 2009 from 6pm-7.30pm.

We are pleased to support our local newspaper who continually report our news and pupils' achievements.



We are pleased to supply Brother Consumables and Office Stationery to **The Glamorgan GEM** and wish them continued success

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Lyn Murray, teachers, pupils and parents are pleased to support

**The Glamorgan Gem**

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Keep up the good work!

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Pendoylan, Vale of Glamorgan



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COMMUNITY COACH OF THE YEAR' 2008  
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Vale Karate would like to thank **The GEM** for their continued support and congratulate them on their fantastic community coverage!

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We would like to thank **The Glamorgan GEM** for the excellent editorial and photographs for Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School.

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**Llantwit Major Town Council** is proud to support **The Glamorgan GEM**, which is instrumental in addressing community initiatives and news updates ensuring our townsfolk are continually informed.



We appreciate the editorial space provided by

**The Glamorgan GEM**

Rydym yn gwerthfawrogi y cyfle i sôn am ein llwyddiannau yn

**Y Glamorgan GEM**

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post@bromorgannwg.org.uk/www.yfro.org.uk  
Pennaeth/Headteacher: Dr Dylan E Jones



for the editorial and photographs giving Barry Comprehensive School excellent coverage.

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## THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

## Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

## GEM readers back Gurkhas

**F**EW issues have ignited the passion of the British public more in recent years than the right of the Gurkhas to live in this country.

Last week, the actress Joanna Lumley held an impromptu press conference with immigration Minister Phil Woolas to demand greater settlement rights, after five former Gurkhas said they had received letters from the Home Office, saying they did not qualify to settle in Britain.

This week, a number of GEM readers have written in support of the Gurkhas.

One of our correspondents has been the

mayor-elect of Llantwit Major, Coun Russell Downe, who explained why he was so passionate about the Gurkhas.

Coun Downe explained: "My grandfather was a dispatch rider in the Second World War and while on active duty near the front line, crashed into a dug out well."

"He was there for three days with two broken legs."

"The Gurkhas found him and got him out, saving his life. Without them, I would not have been here to write in their support."

John Smith, the Vale's MP, has also written to The GEM (See right) to state his position on the issue.

## 'My campaign for Gurkha rights' - MP

**I** WRITE in response to letters published in The GEM last week about Gurkha rights.

As an ex-serviceman and a member of the all-party parliamentary group on Gurkha rights, I have campaigned tirelessly for the equal treatment of former Gurkha soldiers long before it became a popular 'cause célèbre'.

My support for the Government two weeks ago followed discussions with the chairman of the all-party group who tabled an Early Day Motion calling for a fair-

er ruling, which I signed; and following significant concessions obtained from the Government, including an early review of the proposals.

It is under the current Government that the first-ever rights of settlement for Gurkhas in Britain were established and equal pay and pensions were introduced - something that had not happened previously.

I can assure your readers that I will continue to do all I can to bring about a fair outcome for the Gurkhas, whether or not this remains a popular cause. **John Smith, MP**  
Vale of Glamorgan

## Gurkhas' loyalty to the crown

**I** REFER to two letters in The GEM readers' column of May 7 regarding the Gurkha soldiers settling rights.

I, together with many other readers, I suspect, was disappointed to learn that our MP Mr John Smith voted with the Government against this issue. Wasn't it good that they were defeated?

Might I ask if our MP, before he gave his vote, sought advice from his constituents? If he didn't, why not?

I hope that he would remember who gave him the votes to become Vale of Glamorgan MP. Perhaps he hasn't heard of the Gurkhas' past history, and their loyalty to the British crown?

Perhaps his slip-up, on this occasion, may cost him the chance of a third term as our MP. This is just an observation.

**Philip Whitehouse, Barry**

## Damaged tyres

**O**N February 10, while driving to Barry on Five Mile Lane at night, I hit a large pothole just after the Walterston turn-off.

The impact damaged both nearside tyres on my car. Next morning, I went to the spot and took photos which I gave to the Vale Council highways department.

I then fitted two new tyres and filled in a claim form. On May 5, I

received a letter from the council's insurers saying that 'as the site of the accident is subject to inspections by the council and the last one was carried out on December 2, 2008 with no defect apparent, they are not legally liable.'

When I contacted the insurers, I was told in so many words that it was 'tough luck' and to seek legal advice if I wanted. I am now out of pocket by £190!

**Peter Badcock, Barry**

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**PORHCRAWL'S Mayor, Coun David Newton Williams, who has lived in the town for more than 70 years, has just finished his year in office. Here, he reflects on that year, and on what the town means to him.**

## (SEE PORHCRAWL PROFILE ON FACING PAGE)

**L**ITTLE did I know when I used to come to Porthcawl as a young lad that one day I would live here - or indeed, that one day I would be Mayor of the town that I loved from the very first time I came to stay.

So what were the odds of my achieving that honour three times?

I love it in all its moods and its seasons; not only on the glorious summer days that used to be, with blue cloudless skies, clean water, visitors galore and views that went on forever, but also in the depth of hard winters with deep drifts, frozen lakes and just the residents to greet and talk to.

A town full of character and characters who always had the time to talk to you and tell you about the town that they remembered.

Mind you, some of them were like the Old Salt I knew in my youth who, if truth were known and you added up the years he served in ships of the line, he must have joined the navy about two years before Nelson was born.

The town has changed; but then hasn't everywhere. Life has changed, expectations have altered. Progress arrived in the shape of the Beeching Report and cheap foreign travel, and Porthcawl changed forever.

Local authority changed and no longer is the town the master of its own destiny - and there are still those who would argue that the changes that have occurred over the years have not been to the advantage of Porthcawl.

Only last week The GEM showed photographs of car racing on Pink Bay in the 1920s; or what about Sir Alan Cobham's Flying Circus based in the Rest Bay car park? No doubt Health and Safety would put a stop to all that, if sand erosion and extreme dredging hadn't made it impossible.

There is a lot of talk about regeneration - and just think, there are people living here in Porthcawl who are in their 40s and who have heard nothing but that since the time they were born - and the clock has yet to start ticking.

But for all that, I love the town. It's a good place for children to be brought up in, with good schools and a good sporting ethos, and that counts for a lot.

I've thoroughly enjoyed this past year as I have the previous stints as mayor and if you were to ask what the highlights were, I would find it difficult to answer.

Laying a wreath at the Menin Gate in Ypres to help celebrate the centenary of the Porthcawl YMCA and to commemorate the lives of those from the town who were killed in both world wars, and in the skirmishes that have followed since, must be at the top of my list.

My involvement with the schools and youth of the town and my enjoyment of the vast well of musical and artistic talent that exists in the town are also highlights.

My appreciation of the organisations of the town who work for the good of the community and the life within that community without thought of recompense or praise and yet deserve it in trumps, is boundless.

Finally, my thanks to go everyone who has welcomed my wife and I into their lives and involved us in the wide range of social cultural and religious activity in the town.

*I know that I may only have played a relatively small part in the ongoing changes, which may or may not happen, but please do not give up hope - just get involved and work harder to achieve the best for Porthcawl.*

## Academy offers top quality training

**O**UR experience has shown that there is a need for professional training within south Wales.

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This is directed towards candidates who have qualified, but need to achieve extra skills.

The courses are delivered by local professionals, who have been trained to the standards of London's Goldwell Academy staff.

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Finnegans....  
fire to finals!

**H**UW JONES of Finnegans Fish Bar is no stranger to industry awards for his fish and chips.

Regularly finishing in top place for Wales, this year they were keen contenders for the British crown.

Despite just missing out on that title, Huw's 'Best in Wales 2008!' award is particularly special in view of the Porthcawl shop being gutted by fire in November 2008 and re-opening in March this year, following extensive refurbishment.

With branches at Baglan, Port Talbot and Broadlands (Bridgend), there's lots of happy customers - and in 2009....look out for national gold!

**Finnegans**  
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Refurbished shop at  
**STATION HILL, PORHCRAWL**  
Just awarded best in Wales 2008  
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Our GCSE results have been consistently among the highest in Wales with 100 per cent of pupils each year having achieved at least five or more A\*-C grades for the last six years.

## Praise for Bridgend hospital ward staff

**I**AM currently an in-patient at the Princess of Wales Hospital and I feel compelled to write to praise the staff and running of ward 5.

There are a number of stroke patients on the ward who are bedridden, for whom the care can be very

time consuming - but all team members, without exception, are extremely caring, professional, efficient and unfailingly cheerful.

I have been both a nurse and a manager in commerce, and I would be proud to have any of them working in my team.

Susan Thomas, Llangan

## Speed cameras won't solve the problems

**I**AM no highways expert, but how is putting speed cameras at both ends of Llyswoerney going to solve the problem of the road being too narrow?

It is certainly not going to make the road any wider. All that is going to do is put money in the coffers of whoever collects speeding fines; it won't give the lorries more room to pass through.

Mrs EM Davies, Boverton





# PORTHCAWL PROFILE

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



## Home Emporium has gifts to suit everyone's pocket

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**H**OME Emporium at 6 Well Street, is a bright and cheerful shop, selling quality gifts and home accessories to suit all budgets.

Home Emporium opened in June 2008 with the idea of offering home accessories to

appeal to all tastes from funky through to more traditional. The range has been expanded to include gifts for all occasions.

...A shop not to be missed, whether you are looking to enhance your home and garden, or for a gift and card for a child or an adult – you will not be disappointed.

We guarantee a friendly greeting from helpful staff. A visit is essential!

**Catch-up with the latest digital edition of The GEM at: [porthcawl-today.co.uk](http://porthcawl-today.co.uk)**

## If seeking decor inspiration Brushstrokes is a must!

**F**OR style, quality and choice in decor, Brushstrokes, the up-market decorating shop in Porthcawl has it all.

It stocks dozens of the very latest designer wall-paper books to browse through, from top

designers such as Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, Linda Barker, Julien Macdonald and Shand Kydd.

The comprehensive choice of paints range from well known quality names such as Dulux and Leyland to top-end product Farrow and Ball.

The shop is run by Christopher Gadd, a scenic airbrush artist, and

Christine Gadd, who is an expert in interior designs and the use of colour – ideal people to give you the expert advice you need.

*If you've been searching for inspiration in giving your decor that lift, Brushstrokes is a must visit shop: 22a Station Hill, New Road, Porthcawl, CF36 5DN.*

## Sidoli's and Pietro's carry on Italian Connection with town

**S**IDOLI'S has been family-run for nearly 50 years. Originally opened by Pietro and Gianna Sidoli in 1960, the business is now run by their three sons: Mario, Luigi and Tino.

The family also took over Pietro's 15 years ago. Their Esplanade venue boasts 15-20 assorted ice cream

flavours and is favoured as an alfresco/mingling, suntrap/sea view must!

Sidoli's has opted for the popular strawberry and vanilla ice cream

favourites.

Both serve panninis, toasties, popular main meals, a gateaux selection and their signature – freshly ground Italian

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*A warm welcome is assured.*



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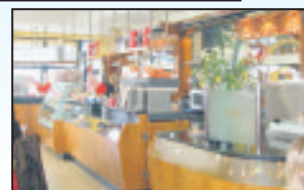
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Admission is £2.50. We are there on Tuesday, May 19. Demonstrations start at 7.30pm.

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**★ SIMPLY THE BEST! ★**

## The Swan takes the gastropub route

**A** VILLAGE pub in Nottage, Porthcawl, is re-branding itself as a 'gastropub' and has made a statement of intent by going into partnership with an award-winning chef.

A brand new menu is being unveiled at The Swan, under the auspices of Mark Thomas and Julie Jenkins, the winner of the 'Welsh Young Chef of the Year' in 2008.

In fact, the public house is moving in a new direction, with a major emphasis on local produce and local suppliers.

Mark Thomas told The GEM: "We are aiming to build personal relationships with as many suppliers as possible, so that we know where all the food comes from".

He feels that there is a demand from diners to see their favourite restaurants supporting the local economy.

That applies to the drinking side as well, because real ales will be featured under the new team, with a particular relationship forged with brewers

from around south Wales, including Newmans from Caerphilly.

Recently, the pub hosted a four-day beer festival to give patrons a chance to see (and taste) the future.

On the restaurant side, young Joe comes to The Swan having worked at The Coast, which won its share of awards in its time in Porthcawl; and also at

'Vale' establishments.

Joe is as enthusiastic as his partners in planning a menu featuring local Welsh beef, lamb, or fish.

In fact, he can be found in the morning on the rocks on the shoreline in Porthcawl, collecting samphire – something that goes well with fish in particular.

## THE SWAN INN

WEST ROAD, NOTTAGE, PORTHCAWL. CF36 3SS



*Re-opened & under new management*

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Mark and Julie are delighted to introduce their **New Chef, Joe Jones** Young Welsh Chef of the Year, 2008/09 an established 'favourite' chef formerly associated with prestigious Vale/Mid Glamorgan restaurants

*Traditional home-cooked cuisine, all sourced from local produce.*

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# Students collect Duke of Edinburgh awards

**MORE than 200 young people from all over Bridgend County Borough attended a celebration ball to mark their success in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.**

This was the third celebration ball staged at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl where the recipients received their gold, silver and bronze awards.

All the young people were in tuxedos or ball gowns and they enjoyed a buffet and a boogie after the ceremony.

The young people came from schools, youth clubs

and other youth organisations and while there were 150 gaining bronze awards, only a handful – six – received the coveted gold award.

The ceremony was attended by Bridgend mayor Cleone Westwood, Gareth Pope, chair of the Bridgend panel for the scheme and Ian Gwylm who is the operational manager for Wales for the award scheme.

There was entertainment from Nicky Casey of Noddfa Youth Centre, Caerau, who sang two songs. She was also a recipient of a gold award.

• All pictures on this page were taken by MALCOLM NUGENT.





# Out and About with The GEM

## IT'S STAR TREK, JIM – BUT NOT AS WE KNEW IT!

**J**J ABRAMS is a man with the popular culture golden touch. Having been responsible for such small screen fare as *Alias*, *Lost* and *Fringe*, his trips to the big screen have been just as fruitful, producing monster-movie *Cloverfield* and helming action blockbuster *Mission: Impossible 3*.

His latest task, however, is quite possibly his most difficult; making 2009 audiences care about a franchise that lost its relevance in the mid-90 – Star Trek.

Taking the story to its origins, we meet a young James Kirk (Chris Pine), a rebellious teen who joins the Starfleet Academy hoping to find new worlds.

Meeting up with the likes of Spock (Zachary Quinto), Bones (Karl Urban), Chekhov (Anton Yelchin) and Uhura (Zoe Saldana), Kirk soon finds himself in charge

of the Starship Enterprise, and on course for conflict with Nero (Eric Bana), a Romulan intent on causing all manner of havoc...

Another week, another origin tale. Yet, unlike last week's *Wolverine*, the auspicious beginnings of the *Star Trek* gang didn't necessarily require retelling.

After all, the adventures of the Starship Enterprise on television kick-started a lifetime of devotion for fans of the series, some of whom perhaps wouldn't relish seeing a new crew aboard the fabled craft.

I certainly wasn't one of them, never really getting the allure of Klingons and warp speeds; in fact, the only film I have ever walked out of was the last big screen *Trek* outing, *Nemesis*.

So it was refreshing to sit down to *Star Trek* without the baggage of the various other incarnations. This is the story from its very beginning, and what a thoroughly enjoyable and satisfying story it is, delivering the blockbuster sensibilities you would hope for while also setting up the new franchise wonderfully well.

JJ Abrams' statement that he was more of a fan of *Star Wars* than *Star Trek* may have disillusioned old Trekkies (or Trekkers, you can never be sure), but his

lack of reverence for the source material means that he comes to it with a fresh pair of eyes.

Taking his cue from George Lucas' space-opera, we get glossy technology, dogfights in space and a wide collection of planets and alien life forms; we even get a few *Star Wars* cribs throughout the story (our hero being pursued by a creature on an ice planet, the villain destroying a main character's planet) that smack just a touch of that franchise.

However, Abrams' direction is solidly entertaining throughout, grasping the sensibility and delivering a film of scope and substance.

The screenplay, from Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman, strikes the right balance between paying respect to the original series' characters while ripping up what has gone before and delivering something more in tune with current cinematic tastes.

The script may lose some of the hallmarks of the franchise, the big issues and themes absent, but there is plenty of time for that in the next one; the main aim, to set up the characters and story, is executed very well.

The only real mistake they make is one all too common when setting everything up for future instalments, and that is losing the actual story in among the introduction

of characters.

The storyline of Nero wreaking havoc almost comes across as an afterthought, something that makes the casting of Eric Bana a touch superfluous, delivering the slightest of pay-offs, and a weak one at that; but Orci and Kurtzman's build-up more than compensates for this shortcoming.

The performances also strike the right note, uniformly impressive but with some characters unsurprisingly sidelined in order to establish the story.

Chris Pine is hugely entertaining as Kirk, charismatic, likeable and headstrong.

As the wayward genius who finds himself more or less thrown into this new world, he is the audience's eyes and ears, and he shows a deft ability to flit

between the comedic and the dramatic.

Zachary Quinto captures Spock's otherworldliness to a tee, while infusing him with just the right level of emotion.

Of the rest of the crew, only Karl Urban's 'Bones' McCoy and Zoe Saldana's Uhura are afforded the opportunity to shine; the remainder of the cast are victims of the more fanciful aspects of the storyline aside, *Star Trek* not only re-establishes a franchise that was all but dormant, but does so with a film that is engrossing and eminently watchable.

How those who pray at the altar of everything *Trek* will respond to seeing their favourite characters re-imagined I can-

not tell, but for me, this is a reboot that wholly succeeds in its aims.

Verdict – The summer blockbuster seasons starts here! A job well done for JJ Abrams and a skilled cast, *Star Trek* works both as a set-up to further adventures for the Starship Enterprise and as a thoroughly enjoyable action-adventure film in its own right.

Where the franchise goes from here is worth looking out for, as based on this evidence it is in the right hands. *Recommended.*

### SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

### Tuesday Club

LLANCARFAN Ladies Tuesday Club will meet at Llanccarfan community hall, on Tuesday, May 19, at 7.45pm.

Hilary West will give a talk on 'Flower arranging'.

It is an open meeting and men are welcome. There will be a raffle and refreshments. Visitors 50p.

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VALE OF GLAMORGAN  
DRO MORGANWU

A SPRING fair will be held in the Lee Hall, Dinas Powys on Saturday, May 16 from 1pm-3pm.

It has been organised by Coun Steve Thomas, retiring chair of the council as part of his charity fundraising and will be hosted by Chris Franks AM.

Stallholders will raise funds for themselves, while the proceeds of an auction and raffle will be shared between ValePlus and Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern.

Those represented include WL, RNLI, ValePlus, MD, Scouts, Vale Council, Fair Trade, DPVC, as well as a number of trade stands.

"I wish to thank all those organisations and individuals who have supported me over the year and hope that a large number of people will be able to attend this free event, which will hopefully raise a substantial amount of money for local good causes."

For details of how to bid for auction items prior to the fair, contact the council on 029 2051 3114, or Steve Thomas on 029 2051 5764.

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For more information:  
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# Vale trainer notches up 'maiden' win at Tredegar races with the aid of Slip Duty

**JOHN NORMAN (25), who rides for Vale trainer Tim Vaughan, chalked up his first winner on Robert Rowsell's Slip Duty in division one of the maiden race before a bumper crowd over the popular Lower Machen course at the Tredegar Farmers Hunt Steeplechases on Sunday.**

Slip Duty, a seven-year-old chesnut gelding who had spent most of the last two years grazing in a field in Ireland until being bought cheaply by owner/trainer Robert Rowsell, jumped the last just in front of *Syntisterdexter* and held on to win by a length.

Rowsell, a former rider and show jumper of note himself, was full of praise for his rider, who comes from the Pontypridd area. He claimed Slip Duty would have won on his Great Britain debut earlier

this season when made favourite, but for swallowing his tongue.

For *The Hell Of It*, partnered by Nick Williams, made nearly every yard of the running in the second division – and was some 25 lengths clear at one stage – only to get caught just before the line by *Mac Two*, ridden by the talented John Mathias.

*Mac Two*, who won by half-a-length, is owned and trained by Pembrokeshire National Hunt trainer Dai Rees, who said: "He may have one more run, but he is a next year horse."

If looks are anything to go on, then this *Sunshine Street* five-year-old bay gelding, who ran in bumpers in Ireland, has a bright future ahead of him.

Lucy Jones, riding her husband Simon's *Dancing Credit*, made it four wins on the bounce to win the ladies' open race coming home five lengths ahead of *Mooseen*, and will next run in a Stratford Hunter

## ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

Chase.

Lucy and Simon have had six winners from seven runners this season, *Derawar* having won on two occasions.

Pembrokeshire's Nathan Deakin (16), made nearly all the running on Ingrid Shervington's *Grey Kid* to take the veteran and novice riders club members' race.

Jumping the last in front, *Grey Kid*, who was winning for the fourth time this season including a Hereford Hunter Chase, won by two lengths from *Wishwillow Magic*, and trainer Wyn Morris said a three-and-a-half mile Stratford Hunter Chase is next on the cards for this game 11-year-old.

Welsh champion Rhys Hughes has struck a purple patch and he had a hat trick of wins to go with his recent Banwen four-timer with *Bob Bites Back* (members), *Classic Chance* (restricted) and *Overlul* (men's open).

*Bob Bites Back*, who is also Stratford-bound, doesn't like being in front so allowed his only two

rivals, *CatchtheBug* and *Thyme Of Hope*, to tow him along and, jumping the last in front, won a lot easier than the one-length verdict over *CatchtheBug* suggested.

Justin Bryant's *Classic Chance*, trained by Cowbridge's Margaret Ree, a chance ride for Hughes, made every post a winning one to score by three lengths from *Its Not Chesnut*.

Steve Whistance's *Overlul* had to pull out all the stops after making all in the men's open all to beat the odds-on favourite *Misamon* by a length.

Tredegar Farmers winners: Members: *Bob Bites Back* (Rhys Hughes) 1-12 fav; Restricted: *Classic Chance* (Rhys Hughes) 8-1; Men's Open: *Overlul* (Rhys Hughes) 5-4; Ladies' Open: *Dancing Credit* (Lucy Jones) 1-3 fav; Club Members: *Grey Kid* (Nathan Deakin) 2-5 fav; Maiden Div 1: *Slip Duty* (John Norman) 5-1; Maiden Div 2: *Mac Two* (John Mathias) 5-4 jt, fav.

Please email your sports items to the Editorial Department at: [ggem@internet-today.co.uk](mailto:ggem@internet-today.co.uk)

## Mixed start to the season for Cadoxton's bowlers

**THE season opened with the first league match at Barry Athletic on April 23.**

Although it was good to start the season with old friends, it was not very successful for Cadoxton.

Rink One: Cadoxton – M Paterson, T Parry, N Clissett, D Davies, 11; Barry Athletic – P House, P Dancy, J Webber and A Hopkins, 31.

The only good thing that can be said about this game was at least Cadoxton reached double figures.

The first three ends yielded 12 for Barry Athletic and Cadoxton were placed in a fight back position from the start.

Luck did not seem to come Cadoxton's way, who were only able to pick up singles on eight ends over the 18 ends.

Rink Two: Cadoxton – A Rees, J Wood, P Cox, M O'Callaghan, 16; Barry Athletic – K Taylor, G Hawkins, M Moore, A Eskins, 17.

This was a very close game with the victory going to Barry Athletic who picked up five shots on the last end.

Rink Three: Cadoxton – J Pycroft, M Slee, D Evans, J Tuck, 21; Barry Athletic – G Kerslake, A Horgan, L Gatt, P Jupp, 14.

Cadoxton were slow finding the green and did not score until the sixth end. Then, having picked up seven shots in the 7/8 end, went from strength to strength for the only victory in the match.

Final score: Cadoxton 48, Barry Athletic 62. Our second match was an Evening League match at St Fagans on May 5.

Rink One: Cadoxton – Pam Bryant, Pauline Davies, Mollie Paterson, Dot Davies, 29; St Fagans – H Eldridge, B Gibson, S Medlam, M Eldridge, 7.

Cadoxton started very strongly, winning the first five ends and putting St Fagans in a catch-up position from the start. The green was perfect and the Cadoxton team played well with luck being with rather than against.

Rink Two: Cadoxton – Joy Wood, Jean Pycroft, Theresa Parry, Jean Tuck, 6; St Fagans – D Hill, N Aibeary, N Reynolds, L Davies, 25.

Unfortunately, as the

scores show, the ladies were unable to find the green and won only five ends of this 18-end match. Cadoxton scored one on the second end and were then unable to score until the 12th, when they started to fight back but were unable to keep it up.

Final score: Cadoxton 35, St Fagans 32. The second league match versus BP was on May 7 at BP Sully. It was a very cold afternoon, very overcast and most of the teams suffered.

Rink One: Cadoxton – Joy Wood, Mollie Patterson, Peggy Cox, Dot Davies, 16; BP – R Williams, M Smith, S Parker, A Dainton, 15.

Cadoxton started the game with eight shots won in the first two ends. BP played catch-up all afternoon. They caught up well and on gaining one shot on the last end, they lost by only one shot.

Rink Two: Cadoxton – A Rees, J Pycroft, N Clissett, Jean Tuck, 16; BP – L Woodcock, C Harris, M Greenslade, V Morgan, 21.

BP started with a gain of seven shots in the first four ends. Cadoxton recovered and the score

on the 14th end of this 18-end match was equal at 15 shots.

BP won three of the last ends to bring their score up to 21 and winning by five shots.

Rink Three: Cadoxton – P Bryant, M Slee, T Parry, M O'Callaghan, 30; BP – B Page, A Mephum, M Clarke, B Stanton, 8.

BP dominated from the start, and little headway could be made by the Cadoxton team. They did rally around in the middle of the game but were unable to make any impression on the score.

Final score: Cadoxton 40, BP 65.

## NEW LADIES FOR CADOXTON

IT was with regret we heard that the ladies of Sully Bowling Club were unable to function as a club within the Glamorgan County Women's Bowling Association.

This, due to their falling numbers, means the ladies have had to look to joining other clubs. We at Cadoxton would like to welcome to our club the following ladies: Mrs Paula Currie, Cath Bentley, Anne Davies, Moya Slee, Moira Connibear and Val Wear.

We wish them the greatest of success and happy bowling for many years to come.

## GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND QUIZ AND GRAND RAFFLE

BEING held at the Pavilion on Monday, May 25, is a fun quiz and grand raffle, the proceeds going to the Guide Dogs.

Prizes include cuddly toys, DAB radio, several bottles of wines, toiletries, whisky, gin, and many more. There will be prizes for the winners of the quiz.

Please come along, all are welcome. Refreshments will be available.

CDD

## Romilly bowlers shade tight game in Carruthers Cup

**BARRY Romilly Bowling Club travelled to Gilfach Goch for their WBA Carruthers Cup match which they expected to be a tough encounter – and it was.**

On a dry, very blustery day, the match commenced on a green surrounded by picturesque mountains. The green played well, and so did the Romilly boys, winning the match 72-67.

Brian Foscolo's rink of M Newman, D Bannister and M Doyle led from start to finish.

They were 14-2 up after 10 ends, at which point Gilfach served up a tea break.

The game resumed with the home side pulling up their socks

and reduced the margin. However, Romilly prevailed and won this rink 19-15.

Alan Bryan's rink of H Jones, R Hewitson and A Burge also had a good win and led from start to finish, which included a 5 on the ninth end for a 18-14 win.

Dave Wright's rink of A Freeman, R Harkus and G Coghill had a good win with the skip in sparkling form. The only time his rink was not in front was on the 13th end when Gilfach went ahead by one shot.

This was a strong match with Romilly doing very well to win the game 19-17.

Richard Cowling's rink of C Geen, P Gershenson and C Collins drew the short straw and was under

pressure from start to finish. However, although they lost the rink 16-21, they did well to preserve the aggregate for their club.

**Good win for Romilly A**  
**BARRY Romilly Bowls Club 'A' side entertained Millwood Bowling Club on Saturday in a SVLA match, on a dry but windy day.**

Bryn Gough's rink of A Jones, J Jones and M Gershenson turned out to be the hotshots of the match with a winning score of 33-7. Bryn was full of praise for his team and their excellent performance.

Alf Woolcock's rink of A Bumford, D Ford

and G Rees also had a good result with a 22-15 win. Alf was also pleased with his team's solid performance.

Bob Wyatt's rink of D Knight, D Ford and C Davies had a close game but unfortunately had to play catch-up throughout. Gerald Kerslake, the Millwood skip, must have been pleased to win this rink 11-18.

Vince McFarland's rink of B Cheal, T Bloomfield and K Clements had a nightmare of a game against Derek Gorringer's Millwood team, who scored a 6 on the way to a big win of 12-29.

However, Romilly won the aggregate – thanks to Alf and Bryn's teams' contributions 78-69.

RH

## Vale win bowl in battle at Dunvant

**ON Thursday, May 7, the Vale of Glamorgan school-boys made the trip to Dunvant RFC to compete in the final of the DC Thomas Bowl.**

The game started well for the Vale with the forwards on top for much of the first half, winning rucks and mauls and releasing the backs a number of times.

The Pembroke boys fought hard and tackled as if their lives depended on it, but it was inevitable that tries would come for the Vale.

The half was crowned by two tries from Tom Trotman, who was able to outrun the defence after good passing from

the backs.

Anton Grigoriou was able to convert one of the tries for the first half to finish 12-0 to the Vale of Glamorgan.

The second half saw the Pembroke boys fired up, and it was backs to the wall for the Vale boys for much of the half.

Pembroke attacked from all areas of the field, and it took some brave defending to keep them out. As the half continued, the Vale boys began to tire and Pembroke managed to score but missed the conversion, making the score 12-5 to the Vale.

The Vale pack found another gear after the try and started to win ball again but found it hard to get out of their own half,

so it was a great relief when the referee announced the last play of the game and Sion Jones ran the ball into touch for the final whistle.

What had been a long season for the Vale had ended in victory by 12-5, and their first trophy one at this level.

There had been some good performances on the day, but the one man who stood out was Caleb Doking, who tackled everything that moved.

The Vale boys would like to thank the coaches for their hard work over the season and the parents for driving all over south Wales at silly times of the morning and some evenings.

SJ

## Wind is no match for the Glamorgan Hunt golfers

**SEVEN brave teams turned out at Southerndown Golf Club for the annual Glamorgan Hunt Golf Day on Friday, May 8.**

Windy conditions kept scores down, but there has to be a winner and this year it was the team of Joint Master of the Glamorgan Hunt, Martyn Edwards, who prevailed.

With a good score of 107 points, three stableford scores on each hole, the team were well ahead of the second placed team, Gareth Perkins' 'Silver Foxes', on 88 points.

Caroline Kelly won the ladies' longest drive and husband Julian won nearest the pin, both playing for the NFU team.

The men's longest drive was won by Jamie Gibson from Keith's team.

The winning team, cleverly called 'Master, Field and Footies', con-

sisted of Sarah Morris, Tim Morris, Martyn Edwards and Phillip James (Ozzie).

Many thanks to all who took part and supported the Hunt on the day, and thanks also to Alison, Nicola and Charlotte who provided the much needed refreshments on the 12th, having somehow 'missed' the traditional 10th!

NG



Graham Nelson presenting Jamie Gibson with the longest drive.



Martyn, Ozzie, Sarah and Tim with Graham Nelson.



# CLIVE IS THE CAT'S WHISKERS – AS FAR AS SUPPER CLUB IS CONCERNED

**AS a coach, Clive Rowlands gave a fire and brimstone dressing room address that brought some players to tears and, as you would expect from a legend of Welsh rugby who has a passion for all things Welsh, TC – as he is affectionately known – had the whole room hanging onto every word as he spoke of his experiences at the top of Welsh and world rugby, and also of life in a special garden of Wales, Cwmtyrch – Upper Cwmtyrch to be precise.**

The evening began with a scrumptious meal of homemade bangers and mash, prepared and served by the Fourth Horseshoe Caterers.

David East pointed out the presence of three former Welsh captains, two former Welsh coaches and two former Welsh scrum-halves – not a bad night for VIPs at a busy end of season.

Apologies were received from former Welsh wing Adrian Hadley, and also the irrepressible Alan Bateman, who was turning out for Heol-y-Cyw in a crucial promotion match.

There was a warm welcome for former Bridgend, Wales and Baa-Baas prop John Lloyd who was delighted to return, having enjoyed the Warren Gatland evening.

Of course, the Supper Club boasts its own array of VIPs among its regular attendees, namely Onllwyn Brace, Howard Jones, Graham Hodgson, Tony Horne and Terry Casey, while Llantwit council had a representative in the Mayor's consort Dave Lane.

A special guest at the top table was Don John, editorial consultant of The GEM newspaper, which gives the Supper Club and local sport such tremendous coverage.

The evening was sponsored by Tony 'the Cobbler' Meakin, who was joined by many of the boxing club fraternity.

Last time Tony was at the club he received an award, and the theme of unsung heroes was expanded on again as David East introduced Gordon Kingston, a retired mining geology lecturer at Cardiff University who came to live in Llantwit in 1969, and immediately formed the Llantwit Major Fencing Club. It was initially linked to the youth club, with the school hall as a base, and then evolved its own identity to flourish for 35 years.

Involved since its inception, Gordon was fully engaged in developing youngsters and Llantwit became a key location for the development of Welsh fencing. Not only was Gordon a coach, he was also as an administrator and Welsh selector, and on his recent retirement he was presented with the prestigious Silver Medal by the Great Britain Fencing Association.

He has three sons Stephen, Mark and Mathew who have successfully represented Wales, including the Commonwealth Games.

Llantwit Major was the first club in Wales to produce young fencing developers, trained by Gordon. He no longer coaches at a high level, but expresses keen interest in veteran fencing (over 40s) still taking part at 70-plus as it is a good form of exercise. So many locals have good reason to thank Gordon over the years.

He is truly one of Llantwit Major's unsung heroes and was presented with a commemorative Supper Club Dragon by Clive Rowlands.

Gordon responded that he was pleasantly surprised and very honoured to receive the award among so many elite sportsmen. He said that you never do these things for reward, stressing the massive input by amateurs in many sports who do so much to produce stars past, present and future.

As always, he championed his sport's cause, pointing out the need for cash and publicity to support the all-important grass roots level.

A humorous interlude followed with the raffle when Dr Peter Thomas laid claim to the large bottle of gin, purely for medicinal purposes of course! Many thanks to the other Peter Thomas present, whose fiver actually won the prize but who could not bear to disappoint the popular, highly-respected, octogenarian.

After a short break, David East introduced special guest Daniel Clive Thomas Rowlands, 14 caps for Wales, all as captain.

A talented schoolboy, Clive toured South Africa in 1956 with the Welsh Schools and made his debut for Wales in 1963 against England, partnering Dai Watkins and going on to lead Wales to their first Grand Slam for 13 years in 1965.

He played club rugby for Abercrave, Pontypool, Llanelli and Swansea. He coached Wales (1968-74), winning the Triple Crown and Grand Slam in 1971, a feat that would surely have been repeated in 1972 had the Irish game been played.

His sharp, tactical mind brought out the best of a succession of dazzling Welsh rugby sides and paved the way for the Golden Era of the late 70s. In a dressing room full of big names, he was always the boss hence the nickname Top Cat.

As Benny (Phil Bennet) once said: "Clive was an inspiration, a winner, a character, when they made him they threw away the mould."

An excellent triple jumper as a youngster, he went on to become a teacher, a Welsh captain, the only man in history to have captained, coached, managed and acted as President of Welsh Rugby.

Clive was inducted into the first-

ever Welsh Rugby Former International Players Association Hall of Fame, sponsored by Honda, alongside the likes of Harry Bowcott, Viv Jenkins, Dr Jack Mathews, Bleddyn Williams, Delme Thomas, Gareth Edwards, Ieuan Evans and Neil Jenkins.

Having recovered from cancer in the 90s, he has raised £70,000-plus for cancer charities, boosted by a £425 cheque from the Supper Club.

When Clive rose to speak there was no standing at the top table. Microphone in hand for him – like a biblical scene, the tables parted for Clive to prowl the room like a circus tiger whose cage door had been left open.

Not a note in sight, he spoke from the heart with a nod, a wink, a comforting arm as he noted characters in the room, several of whom he had not seen since his playing days.

He began in Welsh, a first for the Supper Club, to give sincere thanks for the invitation to follow so many famous names. He spoke fondly of Cwmtyrch throughout, as he talked on the theme of how much rugby matters to our nation.

He recalled the infamous '111 game' against Scotland in 1963 which Wales won 6-0, a drop goal from Clive and a penalty kicked by Graham Hodgson.

Wales won the dour contest as the ball was kicked into touch time after time by 'yours truly' at scrum-half, to yield 111 lineouts and bring about the law change which has helped shape the modern game.

As Clive says, he got the blame but he's sure Dai Watkins and Graham Hodgson kicked the ball out once or twice.

He approached Onllwyn Brace, another great Welsh scrum-half, who, for his sins, had taught Clive how to kick. Onllwyn quickly pointed out he may have taught him how to kick, but not when.

The game brought the late great rugby writer JBG Thomas to muse that he would write Clive's obituary headline as 'Clive kicks the bucket'. As a 10-year-old at the time, all I can remember is Wales winning and Clive and his team arrived back in Wales as heroes.

The theme of Clive's talk was caring is important, and Wales winning is important, and how much rugby success matters to the Welsh nation, the so-called feel good factor.

Clive then spotted John Lloyd, a unanimous choice as skipper by his contemporaries when Clive was in charge of the Welsh team, and a great servant to Welsh rugby as player, captain and coach.

He said John was the first of a new breed of front row forward, fortunate that Bridgend and Llantwit favourite Brian Jones had taught him all he

knew. Clive then approached Brian's table to shake his hand and say how unlucky he had been not to be capped.

The Welsh tour to New Zealand in 1969 was another topic to keep everyone engrossed, with coach Clive causing a stir by suggesting that the All Blacks best back, Sid Going, would not get in the Cwmtyrch under-11s.

Fergie McCormack's boot condemned Wales to defeat, despite Wales fielding a backline of JPR, Maurice Richards, John Dawes, Keith Jarrett, Gerald Davies, Barry John and Gareth Edwards.

Clive's other retort that Wales could always go back home and beat England also raised a few eyebrows in the press.

They say that behind every good man there is a good woman and Clive revealed his wife Margaret's influence on his rugby career, with her considerable knowledge of the game derived from growing up with five elder rugby-mad brothers, the well-known Jeffrey boys.

Clive then reiterated that rugby matters so much to so many. What is so great about rugby is the people. He highlighted Graham Hodgson saying that the modern game has no better punter of the ball and how he and Graham were friends for life.

Clive chatted about another great rugby friend, the wonderful Waka Nathan, one of many stories that kept everyone riveted.

Clive stated how much it meant to him personally to have represented his country, and he was so passionate and vivid in detail that you could almost smell the liniment in the Welsh changing room.

He may have gone around the houses once or twice, but he always came down to earth in Cwmtyrch.

Clive's humour was brilliant, often subtle with his beaming, cheeky scrum-half smile showing a man content with his hectic 71 years. It is obvious he would swap nothing from a wonderful past.

His references to Cwmtyrch and its links with Royalty and the Higher Clergy were hilarious, and he finished the evening by thanking everyone for listening, encouraging the Supper Club to keep it going as it is a marvellous occasion.

Everyone in the room rose as one to give Clive a richly-deserved standing ovation, and he was presented with a special Supper Club Dragon by Llantwit Major RFC chairman Mike Hill.

What made Clive such an exceptional guest was not only his oratory and vivid recollection of a lifetime of wonderful experiences, but also the time he took to speak to individuals and groups both before and after the function.

DAI GRIFFITHS

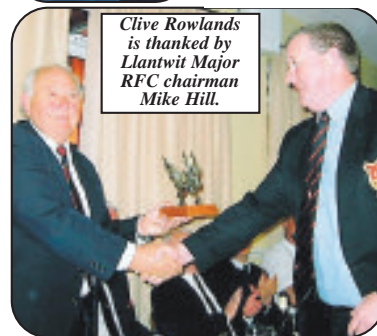


**ABOVE (left):** Clive Rowlands in full cry,



**ABOVE:** MC David East opens the proceedings.

**LEFT:** Gordon Kingston who formed Llantwit Major Fencing Club.



**Clive Rowlands is thanked by Llantwit Major RFC chairman Mike Hill.**



**Clive Rowlands congratulates Gordon Kingston.**

## Southerndown Surf Club youngsters in Welsh finals



**ABOVE:** The under-12 years entered the Welsh National Surf contest. Left to right: Josh Brace (10), Cieran Hughes (nine), Owen Alexander (11), Tyler Rogers (11) and Callum Howell (10).

**ON bank holiday weekend (May 2-3), a small contingent from Southerndown Surf Club braved the surf (and cold nights camping) to test their skills against the best surfers in Wales, at the Quicksilver Welsh National Surfing Championships, at Freshwater West, Pembroke.**

Surfers from all over the country turned up to participate in the event.

Josh Brace, Cieran Hughes, Owen Alexander, Tyler Rogers and Callum Howell (left to right in photo) all entered the under-12 category, with Rhys Alexander and Danny Rogers entering the under-18 category.

The under-18s was held in solid five - six foot surf, where both Rhys and Danny put on good performances.

All the under-12s surfed well, with Owen, Josh, Callum and Cieran progressing through to the semi-finals. There they battled it out in challenging surf conditions, and two close fought semi-finals saw Cieran and Owen make it through to the final.

The final was again very close between Cieran and Owen for third and fourth places. With mums

and dads biting fingernails, the eventual result saw Cieran in third place and Owen in fourth, with Callum and Josh placed equal fifth.

In a great atmosphere on a sunny weekend in Pembroke everyone had a fantastic time, with two of Southerndown Surf Club members coming away with trophies. Well done to all who entered, the club and coaches are very proud.

Southerndown Surf Club was formed last April by the parents and children of Ogmere-by-Sea, Southerndown and St Brides Major and with the help of a Community Chest Grant from the Vale of Glamorgan CC.

NICK HOWELL

### EMAIL US!

- WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: [ggem@internet-today.co.uk](mailto:ggem@internet-today.co.uk)



# Porthcawl Lions' May Day fayre success

THE May Day fayre organised by the Porthcawl Lions at the Rest Home was a huge success.

Attractions included a fun dog show, a climbing wall laid on by the army cadets, the ATC band and music from the youngsters of Adran yr Udd, Porthcawl.

**RIGHT:**

The Mayor showing that it takes a bit of muscle to hold down his office!



Line-up outside the Royal British Legion tent.



ABOVE: Judging the mini fun dog show for dog with the waggiest tail, the dog with the soppiest eyes and the dog with the most liked owner.



The Mayor and Mayoress of Porthcawl, Couns David and Gaynor Newton-Williams, officially opening the Porthcawl Lions' annual May Day fayre at The Rest, Porthcawl. Also in the picture is fayre organiser and MC David Richards.



ABOVE: The Royal British Legion Mascot in his field uniform.



ABOVE: St John Ambulance Porthcawl Division showing off their new Rapid Response Bicycles.



ABOVE: David Edwards and John Walters of the Porthcawl Rotary Club.



ABOVE: The young choir of Adran Yr Udd Porthcawl, who were accompanied by harpist Carys Evans. Rhiannon Dickinson, Urdd leader, was also present.



**RIGHT:**  
Make way for the RAF Cadet Band.

**LEFT:**  
Army Cadets tackle 'the wall'.



"Now which of you has got the waggiest tail?"



All of the photographs on this page were taken by Keith E Morgan



# BRYNCETHIN RFC MINI AND JUNIOR ROUND-UP

**BRYNCETHIN were invited by Maesteg Welsh to take part in their recent tournament.**

Four teams were entered: Under-7s, Under-8s, Under-9s and Under-10s.

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| <b>MAESTEG WELSH</b> | <b>5</b> |
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b>    | <b>5</b> |

**BRYNCETHIN under-7s started nervously and found themselves 3-0 behind within a matter of minutes.**

Bryncethin put Maesteg onto the back foot when Jake Whitefield made a quick break and fed Billy Sinclair, who used his pace to score for Bryncethin.

Suddenly the confidence flooded through the Bryncethin team and a fabulous passage of play saw Ifan Hunnam score the second.

This was immediately followed by a score for Rhys Cawley and all of a sudden the teams were level at 3-3.

Maesteg took the lead again, but Billy Sinclair scored his second of the match to level. Maesteg scored again but Mike Gillett created an opportunity for Rhys Cawley to finish the scoring.

Credit to both teams for an excellent display of running rugby ending in a deserved draw.

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| <b>CORUS</b>      | <b>4</b> |
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b> | <b>4</b> |

**BRYNCETHIN under-7s conceded an early try, but they hit back with a bang, Ifan Hunnam scoring.**

This was shortly followed by Hunnam scoring. Corus hit back to level the scores.

Bryncethin defended superbly as a team with Josh Nuth, Mike Gillett, Ben Lewis and Shea Francis all doing well.

Jake Whitefield set up Billy Sinclair for Bryncethin to take the lead again only for Corus to level the scores.

Whitefield set up Rhys Cawley for another try, but were rewarded when they levelled the scores late on to finish the match level at 4-4.

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| <b>KENFIG HILL</b> | <b>2</b> |
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b>  | <b>3</b> |

**TWO brilliant tries from Ifan Hunnam and one for Rhys Cawley, after good work from Billy Sinclair were enough to give Bryncethin the victory.**

It was to prove too little.

Kenfig Hill and Bryncethin both finished on four points each, but Bryncethin had scored fewer tries during the day.

The youngsters had achieved an awful lot to finish runners up and they can all be rightly proud of the days work.

*Squad: Rhys Cawley, Jake Whitefield, Billy Sinclair, Ben Lewis, Shea Francis, Josh Nuth, Mike Gillett and Ifan Hunnam.*

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| <b>MAESTEG WELSH</b> | <b>2</b> |
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b>    | <b>2</b> |

**THE first half finished scoreless, among the players to shine for Bryncethin under-8s in the first half were Jack Thomas, Davis Pilkington and Aaron Thomas.**

Excellent work by Daniel Osarigie allowed Ethan Hopkins to score the opener for Bryncethin.

Maesteg hit back soon after, but Finlay Mullens set up Rhys Davies to give Bryncethin the lead again.

However, Maesteg scored late to finish the match level.

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| <b>CORUS</b>      | <b>2</b> |
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b> | <b>3</b> |

**WITH the under-8s playing in two groups of three teams, the winner of this game would qualify for the semi finals.**

Corus struck first, but the excellent Ethan Hopkins soon replied for Bryncethin, only to see Corus take the lead again.

Tobias Hunt found a gap in the defence to power through in the corner and level just before half time.

Finlay Mullens went on a mazy run for Bryncethin to take the lead for the first time straight from the restart.

Corus put Bryncethin under tremendous pressure, but the entire Bryncethin team defended like tigers for the rest of the game.

As the referee indicated the final play Bryncethin proved to be impenetrable and when Tobias Hunt encouraged the Corus player to step out of play near the corner, the game was won.

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| <b>SEMI-FINAL</b> |          |
| <b>BRYNOCH</b>    | <b>7</b> |
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b> | <b>5</b> |

**WITH the games being eight-side and Bryncethin having only eight players in their squad the last thing they needed was to come up against a Bryncoch squad with a mammoth 17 players.**

Bryncoch made a strong start to take a 2-0 lead, but just when it seemed they were running out of steam the Bryncethin eight started to build pressure.

Good work from Rhys Davies and Aaron Thomas created room for Tobias Hunt to score.

Bryncoch were now making changes and were rewarded when they took what seemed like a crucial 3-1 lead.

Although tiring the Bryncethin players showed great skills to keep the ball alive and were rewarded when Finlay Mullens pulled a score back.

Bryncoch defended extremely well to stop Davis Pilkington and Daniel Osarigie when they had chances to level.

Not to be denied, they were rightly rewarded when Mullens cut the Bryncoch defence in half to tie the match at full time.

In extra time Bryncoch made more changes to the team and this paid dividends when a tired

Bryncethin conceded three tries in the first half. Bryncethin were looking tired but still had sparks of attacking intent, one such burst allowed Davis Pilkington to pull one back.

Suddenly there was a spring in the team and they created an opportunity for Tobias Hunt to bring them within one score.

Bryncoch were getting edgy, but they were able to evade a tiring defence and break away to score a very late clincher.

The Bryncethin eight were shattered at the final whistle but showed grace in congratulating Bryncoch and wishing them well for the final.

Each one of the players can be proud of the way they battled for each other throughout the day - a superb team performance, giving the team a third place finish.

*Squad: Tobias Hunt, Daniel Osarigie, Aaron Thomas, Ethan Hopkins, Jack Thomas, Davis Pilkington, Finlay Mullens and Rhys Davies.*

**BRYNCETHIN UNDER-9S**

**A FANTASTIC day for the under-9s culminated in a brilliant display in the final.**

Superb defence by all the players set up the win and tries by Dafydd Evans, Aaron Jones, Emyr Watkin and Iwan Veasey secured the trophy.

*Under-9s squad: Emyr Hunnam, Ryan Morgan, Cameron Griffiths, Callum Francis, Gethyn Napper, Will Pitt, Ryan Blake, Morgan Tarr, Iwan Veasey,*

## UNDER-9S GROUP MATCHES

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b>    | <b>5</b> |
| <b>MAESTEG WELSH</b> | <b>3</b> |

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b> | <b>7</b> |
| <b>CORUS</b>      | <b>0</b> |

## SEMI-FINAL

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b> | <b>4</b> |
| <b>BRYNOCH</b>    | <b>2</b> |

## FINAL

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b>  | <b>5</b> |
| <b>KENFIG HILL</b> | <b>1</b> |

## UNDER-10S ROUND ROBIN MATCHES

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b>    | <b>4</b> |
| <b>MAESTEG WELSH</b> | <b>1</b> |

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b> | <b>2</b> |
| <b>RHYDFELIN</b>  | <b>1</b> |

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b>  | <b>0</b> |
| <b>KENFIG HILL</b> | <b>3</b> |

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| <b>BRYNCETHIN</b> | <b>5</b> |
| <b>CORUS</b>      | <b>0</b> |

## FINAL POSITION: RUNNERS-UP

*Emyr Watkin, Dafydd Evans and Aaron Jones.*

*Under-10s squad: Ben Aston, Liam Morgan, Ieuan Davies, Adam John, Nicholas Morgan, Aaron McIntyre, Callum Leithard, William Blake, Henry Clark, Sam Harding, Scott Winter and Adam Moses.*

In only its third year, this was a fantastic performance by all the age groups.

A lot of hard work goes into the running of the mini section at Bryncethin and so many people who really deserve a mention here.

However, all the work is put in for the benefit of the children and they should be as proud of themselves as the coaches, volunteers, supporters and especially their families are of them.

Well done boys and enjoy the rest - see you next season.

RH

## Athletic Youth B team's successful first season



**PICTURED** is the Bridgend Athletic Youth 'B' squad led by Sean Derrick who have won 10 of their 14 games in this their first season, losing only one league game.

## Pontyclun RFC honoured at Millennium Stadium

**PONTYCLUN RFC** were one of the 19 teams invited to the Millennium Stadium on May 9, to celebrate winning the SWALEC leagues.

The team were winners of the Five-South East League for 2008-2009.

### Hole in one

**AT the Pyle and Kenfig mixed open, competitor Wyn Davies from Ashburnham had a hole in one on the par 3 fourth hole.**



## Athletic under-8s get close at Kidwelly tournament

### BRIDGEND ATHLETIC UNDER-8S GREENS

**ON Saturday, May 9 we travelled down the M4 to west Wales, to sunny Kidwelly to take part in the annual Kidwelly tournament.**

Two teams were entered: Ath Greens (under-8s) and Ath Yellows (under-7s).

This was to be the last tag-rugby for the Green squad, who step up to tackling at under-9s next season.

There were three groups of five and one group of six and Athletic were in the group of six.

Each game was to be seven-a-side.

### POOL MATCHES

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| <b>ATH GREENS</b> | <b>7</b> |
| <b>KIDWELLY</b>   | <b>1</b> |

**THE Ath team took control of the game straight from the start to take an early lead by scoring the only try of the first half.**

The second half saw Kidwelly try their hardest, but the Ath were proving to be too strong, scoring a further four tries; Kidwelly had the final say with a consolation try.

A good start for the Ath, the standard was set.

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| <b>ATH GREENS</b> | <b>7</b> |
| <b>WHITLAND</b>   | <b>9</b> |

**THIS game was against one of the stronger sides at the tournament.**

Whitland were strong in attack and defence.

At first, it was try for try but Whitland had the advantage at half time with a 3-5 scoreline.

The second half was much the same, with one side scoring and then the other.

Ath tried their best to overcome Whitland but to no avail, and they managed to keep the two score advantage right to the final whistle.

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| <b>ATH GREENS</b> | <b>9</b> |
| <b>FELINFOEL</b>  | <b>5</b> |

**AGAIN, the Ath were to strong for their opposi-**

**tion, notching up a 3-2 lead at half time.**

Felinfoel were trying their hardest, testing the Ath's defence but it stood strong.

The second half saw the Ath score a further six tries to Felinfoel's three.

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| <b>ATH GREENS</b> | <b>7</b> |
| <b>CRYMYCH</b>    | <b>7</b> |

**ATH were up against a side on top of their game and yet to lose a game.**

This game was try for try, going into half time at four apiece. The second half was a mirror image of the first half.

With seconds to go, the Ath were in the lead 7-6 but a bad mistake allowed Crymych to score and level.

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| <b>ATH GREENS</b>           | <b>6</b> |
| <b>NEW STAR DOCKS (NDS)</b> | <b>9</b> |

**CRYMYCH had done enough to win the group and go through to the semi-finals.**

It was between the Ath and Whitland to take second place in the group and this was going to be a must win game.

Even though NDS played their hearts out, the Ath were still proving to be a much stronger, powerful and determined outfit.

All credit must go to both teams, who both played some good rugby and the Ath were the deserving winners.

Whitland had won their last game too, pushing the Ath into third place in the group.

Thanks to all the squad and their outstanding performances, and thanks to all the parents for the help and support.

A couple of the Ath players reached milestones at this tournament; they were Gwilym John and Jack Obbard, who both scored their 50th tries for the club; well done lads, hope you have just as much success next season.

Also well done to all the Ath under-8 Yellows, which consisted of all under-7 players, well done.

*Under-8 squad: Jack Obbard, Jamie Marshall, Thomas Anthony, William Goodall, Brandyn Fooks, Gwilym John, Jade Thomas, James Hermolle, Christopher Hart and Sam Veasey.*

PO



## Porthcawl under-9s secure their third tournament win



ABOVE: The Porthcawl players pose with their winners medals.

**THIS year's Bridgend Youth Tournament was held at Nantymoel and featured seven teams.**

The tournament took the form of a round robin with all teams playing each other.

Porthcawl's first game was against the home side, Valley Ravens, and saw the Seaweeds run in seven tries with no response from the Ravens.

The try scorers were: Louis Protheroe (3), Joe Stradling, Max Budding, Meuryn Nelson and Matthew Roberts.

**Final score: Porthcawl 7 Valley Ravens 0.**

The Green and Blacks second match was against Tondou. This was to prove a tougher game but Porthcawl managed to overcome a hard tackling Tondou side by three tries to nil.

The scorers were: Joe Stradling, Dan Williams and Kurtis Pridmore.

Next up were local rivals Kenfig Hill, who were also unbeaten after their first two games. This, as usual was a very tough match but

Porthcawl once again raised their game to overcome a very useful Mules side by two tries to one.

Scorers were: Ben Roach and Joe Stradling. Porthcawl's fourth encounter was a match against a much improved Bridgend Sports side.

The Sports were also unbeaten after the first two games but were up against a Porthcawl side determined to win their third tournament of the season.

Tries from: Louis Protheroe (2) and Ben Collins secured the victory by three tries to nil.

The penultimate game saw Porthcawl up against a big, athletic Pencoeed team. Porthcawl, by now, had one hand on the trophy and looked determined to get through the competition unbeaten.

Two early tries from Ben Roach and Louis Protheroe saw the Pencoeed heads go down and Porthcawl looked set for another tournament win.

**Final score: Porthcawl 2 Pencoeed 0.** The sixth and final match was against Garv who were looking stronger as the tourna-

ment progressed. Beale, Cameron Williams, Zak Furness-Jones. Three tournament wins and a very successful season. Congratulations to all the under-9s and thank you to all the parents.

**Final score: Porthcawl 3 Garv 0.**

Other vital members of the Porthcawl squad: Ethan Waters, Connor Harrington-Pittam, Ben Davies, Rhys Reid, Callum Morgan, Connor Grant, Harry and Joe

Williams, Zak Furness-Jones.

Three tournament wins and a very successful season.

Congratulations to all the under-9s and thank you to all the parents.

Porthcawl player of the tournament was Dan Williams.

The minis presentation night is on Friday, May 22.

IAN BUDDING

## Pyle and Kenfig Ladies golf club results

**HERE are the results of the ladies section of Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club:**

**Ladies Open; 4 Ball better ball:** first, Margaret Thomas and Pam Williams, Royal Porthcawl - 39 points; second, Liz Attwood and Sonia Vincent, Pyle and Kenfig - 38, on a count back from third: Andrea Allnott and Lynne Perrott - 38 and fourth, Jan Hughes and Sue Whitland - 38.

**Mixed Foursomes:** first, Ann Francis, Ashburnham, and John Murray, P & K - 42 points; second, Celia Thomas, St Marys, and Phil Parry, P & K - 41, on a count back from third, Geraint Evans, P & K, and Sharon Kehoe, Maesteg - 41; fourth, Sian Thomas, and Martin Hayward, P & K, - 40; fifth, Alison Lewis and Phil Richards, P & K, - 38.

MW

## ON YOUR MARKS FOR THE TRI-JUNIOR TRIATHLON!

**THE Pencoeed Tri Junior Triathlon for youngsters aged eight - 16 will take place at Pencoeed Pool, Bridgend on Sunday, July 19.**

Children will swim, bike and run in five two-year age groups - known as Tristar groups - starting with Tristar for eight-year-olds (swim 50m, cycle 800m, run 600m) ending with a Youth wave for 15/16 year olds (swim 400m, cycle 10km, run 3km).

Spokeswoman Debbie Cook said: "To give all children, regardless of experience and fitness levels, the opportunity to have a go our Fun2Tri wave for eight -14 year olds has shorter distances with an emphasis on trying something a bit different and having lots of fun! Finishers' medals go to all!"

The event is supported by Bridgend Council's Active Young Persons Dept and is sanctioned by the British Triathlon Association in the pool and surrounding playing fields.

Entry form and further information available on the club website [www.pencoeedtri.org](http://www.pencoeedtri.org) or email Liz

Lewis [liz\\_lewis@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:liz_lewis@tiscali.co.uk) Tel 01446 771507. Max 100 entrants.



ABOVE: A previous winner with Helen Jenkins, Bridgend-based Olympic Triathlete and current Triathlon world champion.

## BRIDGEND ATHLETIC YOUTH POISED FOR MILLENNIUM GLORY



ABOVE: The Bridgend Athletic Youth squad, who will be travelling to the Millennium Stadium this Saturday to face Merthyr Youth in the Youth League final.

**WALES' centrepiece sporting arena will this weekend play host to a crucial 80-minute rugby showdown as Bridgend Athletic Youth prepare to take on the challenge of Merthyr Youth in the first RAF Careers sponsored Youth League final (2.30pm kick-off, Saturday, May 16).**

Both teams successfully came through their respective semi-final bouts at the weekend and will now take to the turf at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium

to battle it out for Champion of Champions glory.

Blues' region champions Merthyr Youth trounced North Wales champions Rhyl Youth 23-9.

In the second semi-final, Ospreys' region champions Bridgend Athletic Youth overcame the challenge of Dragons' region champions Blackwood Youth, to run out 27-3 winners and cement their spot at the Stadium on Saturday.

## Changing times at recreation centre's swimming pool

**WORK on Bridgend Recreation Centre's new swimming pool changing village goes from strength to strength.**

The changing village will offer fantastic family cubicles, individual cubicles, new finishes throughout, mechanical and electrical services and new locker systems.

The work is now in week eight of the 20-week schedule, and all demolition work has been successful and completed on time, said Karl Paterson, Bridgend Recreation Centre swimming pool manager.

"The work in the changing village is fantastic and we are so pleased with the results so far. Even though we have had a restricted programme, our swimming lessons have not been affected at all.

"I'd like to thank customers for their patience and co-operation but I know most are pleased with what is on offer, considering the work being carried out."

He added: "We apologise for the inconvenience caused, but we felt having a reduced programme would be more beneficial than closing the swimming pool for the 20 weeks of work."

## All the latest the news from Nantymoel Boys and Girls Club

### TABLE TENNIS

**ON Friday, December 13, Nantymoel Boys/Girls Club travelled to London to play in the Fred Perry table tennis competition.**

Once again, they came home with the Fred Perry Challenge Cup. The squad was Joseph Jones, Charlene Williams, Katelyn Williams, Connor Bray, Harriet Teale.

Thanks to Byron, the leader, for taking them.

On April 26, Nantymoel Boys Girls Club hosted the Boys Girls Clubs of Wales table tennis tournament.

Once again, Nantymoel Boys Girls came away winners. Charlene Williams is the second best in the country at under-14 and Step Jones at under-12. Well done to both.

### POOL

**ON May 9, Nantymoel Boys Girls Welsh champions travelled to the Clubs for Young People UK Pool and Snooker final in Barnsley and represented Wales, their club and the Valley, together with their supporters.**

Thanks to the two Byrons, Enyd Simon and the parents of the young members. Also to Allan Bayliss for his help in making this trip possible.

### AWARDS NIGHT

**ONCE again, this was a great success and club members were presented with their well-earned trophies.**

Chair Ken Davies welcomed the Deputy Mayor, Coun Jeff Tildesley, Coun Mel Nott, Leader, County

borough council, Coun Gwyn Jones, Alan Bayliss, Joff Carrol of Boys Girls Club Wales, and Howard Baylis.

Coun Tildesley made a presentation to Jake Mathews for pool; Harriet Teale, champion of champions in pool and table tennis was presented with a season ticket for the Celtic Crusaders; Ieuan Williams for pool snooker.

Coun Gwyn Jones made a presentation to Katelyn Williams for table tennis; and Charlene Williams, for pool and table tennis.

Howard Bayliss presented Kaleyah Chicott (pool); Shay Walker (pool); and Jessica Ralph (pool).

Joff Carrol, BGC Wales presented Channon Mathew (pool). Channon is the under-12 Welsh champion; and Shay Walker (pool).

The entertainment was provided by the local

disc jockey and disco dancers Hannah, Shannon, Kayleigh, Abbie, Jessica, Catlyn, Jennifer, Ayisha, Shannon C.

The chairman thanked the ladies for the buffet and presented them with a bouquet of flowers.

### CLUB NEWS

**IF you would like a game of pool or snooker or table tennis, come and join us at Nantymoel Boys Girls Club.**

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01446 796100 or call in at Gift Gallery, Commercial St, Llantwit Major, 01446 795454.

## NEWS FROM PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

### Magical qualities of the Format Painter

AN eminent engineer once said that if you have a difficult problem, ask a lazy engineer to solve it.

That way you would get an elegant solution with half a page of calculations, whereas an energetic enthusiast would probably produce an inferior solution in half a book taking ten times as long.

One suspects that it was such an engineer (lazy and software variety) that came up with the Format Painter. It is such a useful device that it is hard to understand anyone who fails to use it unless they A) have no need of it; B) are unaware of it or C) love squandering their time.

For the unaware, it is the button bearing a pasting brush and normally on the standard toolbar and you really should try it out.

(If it is missing, right-click on a toolbar and select Customise from the drop-down menu. On the Toolbars tab click on Standard to highlight that toolbar and then click on the Commands tag. Highlight Format in the left-hand pane and the available commands will appear in the right-hand pane. Click on Format Painter and drag it to the toolbar on the main window and drop it.)

So what does it do? Exactly what it says on the tin! When you are working on a document, be it text or a spreadsheet you often need to do something special with a piece of it.

It might be underlining, making bold or italic or even using a completely different font on a poster or invitation.

You might even provide a background colour to highlight some text or provide different coloured lines on text boxes.

It is perfectly feasible to combine several effects onto a single object or piece of text.

After fiddling about for some time with several options, you finally settle on something you like. If you then decide that you want something else to look just the same, the format Painter will do the job in a trice.

Select (ie highlight) anything that has the format you want to replicate (it need only be a small sample); click on the Format Painter button and when you highlight the next thing the wanted formatting will magically be applied to it.

The freshly formatted bits do not even have to be in the same document; the Painter will happily work between them.

If you want to copy the formatting several times then highlight the original formatted sample as before and double-click on the Format Painter button.

Now you can highlight a series of things and each will be painted with the original formatting until you click on the button again to stop it. Because it is easy to undo if you go wrong there is no risk of a disaster.

In the same vein there are other buttons that might fill the bill for something that you do that is not quite mainstream. If enough people have asked for it, it is likely that a software engineer has designed one to do the job.

For example, there is a button to highlight text for you, just like the one you would use on paper. You can find it in exactly the same way as noted above for the Format Painter.

It is great for emphasising a point.

While you are there, have a browse around the other commands. You should be able to find a few helpful ones. There are over 1500 of them after all.

For more information, telephone 029 2070 8439.

**HOWARD DESMOND**  
(chairman)

## School's pride in its Barry Island garden

CHILDREN from Gladstone Primary School's after school gardening club went along to view their exhibit at the recent Royal Horticultural Society Show in Cardiff.



Local primary schools were invited to design a garden within a wheelbarrow and Gladstone's gardening club, run by Sarah Kilbride and Christine Good, chose the theme of Barry Island.

They undertook research about the types of plants that grow near the sea, painted the wheelbarrow sky blue and decorated it with sea creatures. The wheelbarrow was planted with a range of grasses, succulent plants and other native seaside plants.

Teacher Sarah Kilbride said: "Our gardening club worked really hard as a team to design and plant their wheelbarrow. We were really proud to see it on display in Cardiff."

## Vale Karate raises £1,000 for Ty Hafan

VALE Karate has organised a series of fund-raising events in aid of Ty Hafan.

On April 25, a Dodgeball competition was organised at Vale Karate's base, the YMCA Hub with many adult and junior teams.

Vale Karate's instructors put themselves at the mercy of their students,

'the Stocks' for Soak the Sensei! Later at Barry Town FC an adults quiz took place and May 1, saw Vale Karate's Friday evening class become a Superhero night!

More than 80 children turned up to train with several wearing their traditional Karate uniforms, a number wearing their pyjamas and the remainder disguised as their

favourite Superheroes, with Spiderman, Batman, Superman, Catwoman and even one or two Power Rangers in attendance. The children's class was followed by the adult class where the theme continued!

The various events raised £1,000 for Ty Hafan.

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**Please apply with a covering letter & CV to:**  
**Mrs N Gilbert, The Waterfront Medical Centre,**  
**Heol Y Llongau, Barry CF63 4AR.**  
 Closing date: May 29, 2009.

**Part Time Receptionist**  
 required to cover maternity leave in Llantwit Major, split shift - Thursday, Friday plus Saturday mornings. Must be an enthusiastic person, computer/telephone skills essential, good communication and ability to be flexible. Training given. *Starting date: June 15, 2009.*  
**CV to: West Farm Veterinary Clinics Ltd,**  
**North Road, Cowbridge CF71 7DE.**

## Family Notices

**Harold (HARRY) HARRISON**  
**of Westgate, Cowbridge**  
 Peacefully on May 4, 2009, aged 87, at Brocstae Manor Care Home, Bridgend.  
 Much-loved husband of fifty nine years to Vera, and father of Sally and Roger, grandad to Ben, Lucy, Daniel, Owen and Siân, great-grandfather to Sophie and Alisha, father-in-law to John and Barbara.  
 Well-known and popular Cowbridge resident and former electrical contractor, Harry will leave a hole in the hearts of all that knew him. Many heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been involved in his care both at home and lately at Brocstae.  
 Funeral Friday 15 May, 12 noon, at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, followed by burial at The Limes Cemetery. Flowers to Greengate, St Brides Major CF32 0SB, or donations to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

**VAUDIN**  
 Peacefully on May 8, 2009, Margaret (née Mahoney), of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved wife of Michael and loving mother of Mark and Christopher. Resting at WA Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major, until the funeral on Monday May 18, 2009.  
 Service in Coychurch Crematorium at 3.45pm. Family flowers only but donations may be given to the Salvation Army c/o the Funeral Director.

**Dorothy SEWELL**  
 Peacefully at Pen-Y-Bont Court Nursing Home on Wednesday May 6, Dorothy, aged 89 years.  
 Beloved wife of Eric, loving mother of Andrew and the late Keith.  
 Funeral service Monday May 18 at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge at 1.15pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to: The Alzheimers Society, Oldwell Court, Ty Gwyn Road, Penylan, Cardiff CF23 5DA.  
 Enquiries to Thomas Bros, tel: 01446 775681.

**GALTON Paul**  
 On May 9, peacefully at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Paul of Flemingston.  
 Beloved husband of Elizabeth, dearly-loved father of Karen, Kerry, Donna, Mark and Alana, a much-loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon.  
 Funeral Tuesday May 19, service and interment 2pm at Flemingston Church.  
 Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

**TYDEMAN Eileen**  
 Peacefully after a short illness at the Waverley Care Centre, Penarth, on May 10, 2009.  
 Eileen, beloved mother of Jackie, much-loved mother-in-law of Jeff, also a loved grandmother to Paul and John.  
*Eileen will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.*  
 Resting at James Summers and Son, Lavernock Court, Penarth, until the funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday June 5, 2009 at 2.15pm.  
*Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.*

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## Lost & Found

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## Public Notices



**Vale of Glamorgan Council**  
**Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001**  
**Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under the Local Authorities Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places Regulations 2007 has made an Order which shall come into effect on the 1st June 2009 identifying places detailed in the Schedule below as designated public places pursuant to the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (as amended by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006).

The Order allows a police officer, and other accredited persons, to control the consumption of alcohol within designated places. If they believe that someone is consuming alcohol or intends to consume alcohol they can require them to stop or they can confiscate the alcohol.

Any person who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with an officer's request under this provision may commit an offence and may be issued with a penalty notice for disorder or may be liable to prosecution. The areas proposed are identified and described in the Schedule below.

### SCHEDULE

#### LAND DESIGNATED BY DESCRIPTION

##### PENARTH

Victoria Playing Fields, Penarth  
 All Saints Church grounds, Victoria Square, Penarth  
 Windsor Gardens, Penarth

Pembroke Terrace Play Area, Pembroke Terrace, Penarth

Cwrt-y-Vil Old Penarthians Recreation Ground, Penarth

St David's Park/St Cyres Field, Penarth

##### DINAS POWYS

Parc Bryn-y-Don, Dinas Powys

##### COWBRIDGE

Poplars Park, Cowbridge

##### RHOOSE

Milburn Park, Rhooose

Community Centre Grounds and play area, Stewart Road, Rhooose

Rhooose Railway Station and adjoining car park, Rhooose

##### LLANTWIT MAJOR

Llantwit Major Train Station and adjoining car park

##### BARRY

Parade Gardens, The Parade, Barry

The Knap, Barry including the Promenade, Cold Knap Gardens, Bron y Mor car park,

Knap Car Terrace and the green open space adjoining Marine Drive

Barry Island including Whitmore Bay, the Promenade including the gardens and adjoining Friars Road, car park, Paget Road, Station Approach and the Amusement Park, Maslin Park, Plymouth Road, Archer Road between Phyllis Street and Plymouth Road, Amherst Crescent and adjoining green spaces, Ivor Street and adjoining back lanes, Nell's Point, the green space adjoining St Baruch's Chapel, Jacksons Bay

##### Basset Park

Batts Fields

Gladstone Park, Gladstone Gardens, Memorial Hall grounds and car park

Hatch Quarry Play Area and Little Hill Park open space off Brock Street

Gibbonsdown Estate including Pendoylan Close, Michaelston Close, Coychurch Rise, Laleston Close, Ogmore Place and the adjoining green space, Dale Court, St Catherine Court, Cwrt Pencoedre, Clos Llithwaden, Aberaeron Close, Columbus Close, Magellan Close, Ramsey Road, St Brides Way and Skomer Road

Thompson Street Estate including lower Thompson Street, Belvedere Crescent including the Community Centre grounds, play area and rear lanes


Operational Manager, Public Protection, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

Dated: 14th May 2009.

[www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

## Birthdays

**Happy 18th Birthday JAMIE on 17 May**



Lots of Love  
 Mum, Dad & Andrew  
 x x x

## Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE for up to 4 weeks for 50p a word plus VAT. To take advantage of this offer simply send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to "The Glamorgan Gem" at The Gem, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel: 01446 774484. Adverts must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.  
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## Motors For Sale

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**53 MERCEDES E270 Tdi Classic**  
 in silver, leather seats, service history, taxed 6 months. MoT til February 2010  
**£8,995 ono**  
**07799 863192** 19

**2004 CITROEN C2 Furio 1.4**  
 Yellow, 49,200 miles, fsh, tax, MoT, 1 owner from new.  
**£2,650 ono**  
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**Blue JM Star Scooter 50cc**  
 07 Plate  
 Taxed until end of August, low mileage excellent condition  
**£400**  
**01446 792675** 17

**1999 TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 VVTi**  
 Silver, taxed Dec 2009, MoT 12 months, alloys, air con, 73,000 miles  
**£2,300 ono**  
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**02 Vauxhall Vectra 2.2 SRi 150 Estate**  
 Silver, half leather, cd, a/c, abs, e/pack, nice alloys and tyres, lowbar, MoT, tax, gret condition inside and out.  
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**07961 022004**  
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**P Reg Vauxhall Astra Auto 1.6 5-door**  
 Excellent condition, e/w, MoT til October, Taxed til July  
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**56 Plate 1.25 FORD FIESTA Style Climate 5-dr**  
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**03 FORD FOCUS 1.6i LX**  
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 Metallic green, one lady owner, 33,000 miles, taxed & MoT  
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**1989 Volkswagen Golf 1.6 Driver**  
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### VALE PACT MEETINGS

ILTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry,  
today (May 14) (7pm).

RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community  
Centre, May 26 (7pm).

SULLY PACT, Jubilee Hall, June 1 (8pm).

CORNERSWELL PACT, Cogan Leisure  
Centre, June 2 (7pm).

CADOC PACT, Palmerstone Community  
Learning Centre, June 3 (7pm).

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| 185/55R15 Bridgestone R250 | £57.58 | £110  | £210  |
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### PERFORMANCE TYRES

| BRIDGESTONE                | Day 1  | Day 2 | Day 4 |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| 185/55R15 Bridgestone R250 | £55.31 | £95   | £200  |
| 185/55R15 Bridgestone R250 | £59.46 | £115  | £225  |
| 185/55R15 Bridgestone R250 | £73.31 | £146  | £270  |
| 185/55R15 Bridgestone R250 | £65.31 | £125  | £240  |

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| BRIDGESTONE                | Day 1  | Day 2 | Day 4 |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| 185/55R15 Bridgestone R250 | £68.41 | £130  | £250  |
| 185/55R15 Bridgestone R250 | £61.88 | £115  | £220  |
| 185/55R15 Bridgestone R250 | £73.36 | £140  | £270  |
| 185/55R15 Bridgestone R250 | £69.36 | £130  | £250  |

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| BRIDGESTONE                | Day 1   | Day 2 | Day 4 |
|----------------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| 185/55R15 Bridgestone R250 | £71.81  | £135  | £260  |
| 185/55R15 Bridgestone R250 | £119.21 | £230  | £445  |
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### STANDARD TYRES

| BRIDGESTONE          | Day 1  | Day 2 | Day 4 |
|----------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| 185/55R15 Avon CR322 | £34.19 | £65   | £125  |
| 185/55R15 Avon CR322 | £36.30 | £68   | £130  |
| 185/55R15 Avon CR322 | £44.46 | £85   | £160  |
| 185/55R15 Avon CR322 | £39.46 | £75   | £145  |

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| BRIDGESTONE        | Day 1  | Day 2 | Day 4 |
|--------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| 185/55R15 Avon ZV3 | £45.48 | £87   | £170  |
| 185/55R15 Avon ZV3 | £50.22 | £95   | £185  |
| 185/55R15 Avon ZV3 | £53.45 | £105  | £200  |
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| BRIDGESTONE        | Day 1  | Day 2 | Day 4 |
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| 185/55R15 Avon ZV5 | £58.27 | £112  | £220  |
| 185/55R15 Avon ZV5 | £50.45 | £97   | £190  |
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| BRIDGESTONE        | Day 1   | Day 2 | Day 4 |
|--------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| 185/55R15 Avon ZV5 | £65.31  | £128  | £250  |
| 185/55R15 Avon ZV5 | £74.30  | £144  | £280  |
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| BRIDGESTONE       | Day 1  | Day 2 | Day 4 |
|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| 185/55R15 Niss    | £25.35 | £50   | £95   |
| 185/55R15 Niss    | £27.40 | £52   | £100  |
| 185/55R15 Niss    | £30.28 | £58   | £110  |
| 185/55R15 Federal | £32.19 | £62   | £120  |

### PERFORMANCE TYRES

| BRIDGESTONE    | Day 1  | Day 2 | Day 4 |
|----------------|--------|-------|-------|
| 185/55R15 Niss | £32.19 | £62   | £120  |
| 185/55R15 Niss | £32.90 | £63   | £120  |
| 185/55R15 Niss | £37.77 | £72   | £139  |
| 185/55R15 Niss | £36.25 | £71   | £137  |

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| BRIDGESTONE       | Day 1  | Day 2 | Day 4 |
|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| 185/55R15 Federal | £40.10 | £78   | £150  |
| 185/55R15 Federal | £41.28 | £79   | £150  |
| 185/55R15 Federal | £43.08 | £82   | £158  |
| 185/55R15 Federal | £49.21 | £95   | £185  |

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| BRIDGESTONE       | Day 1  | Day 2 | Day 4 |
|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| 185/55R15 Federal | £51.15 | £98   | £190  |
| 185/55R15 Federal | £52.50 | £84   | £165  |
| 185/55R15 Federal | £53.68 | £103  | £200  |
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**53 MINI Cooper S** in met black with black leather trim, 65,000 miles with pan-roof ..... **£7,995**



**04 MINI 1.6 Convertible** in yellow, 39,000 miles ..... **£8,995**



**81 MGB Roadster** in gunmetal grey with light grey leather trim. Nut and bolt restoration. On offer at ..... **£6,995**



**56 LEXUS IS 250 SEL (New Shape) Automatic.** In met. red with cream leather, 17,000 miles ..... **£17,995**

## CONVERTIBLES READY FOR SUMMER

|    |                                   |   |                            |
|----|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 99 | JAGUAR XKR Convertible.           | In met silver with ivory leather, 61,000 miles with 20" alloys etc.                     | £11,995                    |
| 08 | PEUGEOT 307 Convertible 2.0 Sport | In met grey with black leather, 10,000 miles  | £10,995                    |
| 52 | BMW 318Ci Convertible             | In metallic blue with navy hood, 52,000 miles with multi cd, upgraded alloys            | £8,995                     |
| 04 | MINI 1.6 Convertible              | In yellow, 39,000 miles   | £8,995                     |
| Y  | AUDI TT 225 Convertible           | In black with baseball leather trim, 46,000 miles, FSH, superb                          | £8,995                     |
| 81 | MGB Roadster                      | In gunmetal grey with light grey leather trim. Nut and bolt restoration. on offer at    | £6,995                     |
| 01 | MERCEDES SLK 230 Auto.            | Silver, black leather trim, 76k miles, looks and drives superb                          | REDUCED BY £1000 TO £6,995 |
| 53 | MG TF 1.8                         | In met silver with charcoal leather trim and navy soft top, low mileage example at only | £4,995                     |
| 99 | MAZDA MX5 1.8.                    | Met green with beige leather trim, 65,000 miles, host of extras                         | £4,995                     |
| 03 | MGTF 1.8 (135)                    | In met. blue, 25,000 miles, superb example at   | £4,695                     |

## PRESTIGE & 4X4

|    |  |   |                             |
|----|--|---|-----------------------------|
| 06 | VOLVO XC 90 2.4 D5 SE Automatic.         | In black with black leather trim, 33,000 miles, 7 seater, 4x4 diesel at                       | £18,995                     |
| 08 | BMW 320 SE                               | In met -silver, 9,000 miles, fantastic value at   | £17,995                     |
| 56 | LEXUS IS 250 SEL (New Shape) Automatic.  | In met. red with cream leather, 17,000 miles  | £17,995                     |
| 04 | MERCEDES E320CDi Avantgarde Automatic.   | In tanzania with grey leather trim, 61,000 miles, Full panoramic roof                         | REDUCED BY £500 TO £12,995  |
| 56 | BMW 118 Diesel Sport                     | In silver with charcoal trim, 27,000 miles, fsh   | £12,995                     |
| 56 | VW Golf 2.0TDi GTi (170) 5-dr Automatic. | In met-silver, 35,000 miles with sat nav, etc   | £12,995                     |
| 56 | HONDA Civic ES 2.2 CTDi 5-dr             | In silver, 28,000 miles, a diesel with full glass roof  | £10,695                     |
| 55 | MERCEDES C220 Cdi SE Sport Coupe Cdi.    | In smoke silver, 58,000 miles   | REDUCED BY £1000 TO £10,995 |
| 04 | BMW 530 SE Automatic                     | In met silver with full black leather trim, full specification executive saloon at            | £9,995                      |
| 56 | JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 Diesel                 | In light blue met with grey half-leather trim, 71,000 miles,                                  | REDUCED BY £1000 TO £7,995  |
| 04 | BMW 320 Diesel Sport Touring             | In met grey with black leather trim, f antastic value at                                      | £7,995                      |
| 53 | MINI Cooper S                            | In met black with black leather trim, 65,000 miles with pan-roof                              | £7,995                      |
| 53 | MINI Cooper                              | In met silver with black roof and half leather trim, low mileage example with full glass roof | £7,695                      |
| 04 | MITSUBISHI Shogun Sport 3.0 Auto Warrior | In black, 41,000 miles  | £6,995                      |
| 53 | MERCEDES C200 Kompressor 6-speed         | In black, 46,000 miles with cd, alloys, etc   | REDUCED BY £1000 TO £6,995  |
| 52 | MERCEDES C240 Avant Garde Auto           | In met blue, low mileage example at   | £5,995                      |
| 99 | BMW 520 SE Auto                          | In met blue with grey trim, 18" alloys etc.   | £2,695                      |

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|    |   |  |                           |
|----|---|--|---------------------------|
| 07 | PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDi SW                          | In ice blue with full panoramic roof, high spec diesel estate at                               | £7,995                    |
| 04 | TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 Diesel T-Spirit D-4D 5-dr    | In met silver champagne with black leather trim, 71,000 miles, top of the range diesel at only | £6,995                    |
| 06 | RENAULT Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-dr (new shape)     | In black, low mileage example at   | £6,495                    |
| 06 | NISSAN Micra 1.4 SVE Automatic.                 | In met grey, 26,000 miles, fantastic specification   | £6,495                    |
| 55 | RENAULT Megane 1.5 Diesel Expression Automatic. | In met silver, 37,000 miles  | £6,495                    |
| 06 | PEUGEOT 207 1.4S 3-dr                           | In met grey, very desirable hatch at   | £5,995                    |
| 55 | FORD Focus TDCi Zetec 5-dr                      | In met red, 45,000 miles, stylish, economical hatch  | REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,995 |
| 04 | TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 T3X                          | In met silver, low mileage family car at only  | £5,995                    |
| 55 | VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SXi Twin port 5-dr           | In silver, 36,000 miles, sporty family hatch at  | £5,995                    |
| 04 | MAZDA 3 TS2 2.0 5-Dr.                           | In met. grey, 34,000 miles, very nice example at   | £5,995                    |
| 07 | RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus 3-dr                    | In silver with cd, a/c, etc  | £4,995                    |
| 55 | RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5-dr                | In silver, 42,000 miles with cd, sunroof, etc  | £4,995                    |
| 05 | RENAULT Clio 1.2 Extreme 4.                     | In met. grey, 38,000 miles with CD, alloys   | £4,995                    |
| 03 | CITROEN C8 2.0 HDi SX 7 Seater                  | In Jade metallic, 70,000 miles with electric sliding rear doors                                | £4,995                    |
| 54 | FIAT Panda 1.2 Eleganza                         | In met-blue, 52,000 miles with roof rails, CD, A/C   | £3,995                    |
| 04 | SMART CAR Pulse.                                | Red & black, black leather trim, 35,000 miles. full glass roof                                 | £4,995                    |
| 52 | TOYOTA Yaris 1.5 T-Sport 3-dr                   | In smoke silver, 41,000 miles, FSH, superb value at  | £4,695                    |
| 04 | PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 5-dr                      | In ice blue metallic, 29,000 miles   | £4,495                    |
| 04 | NISSAN Almera 2.2 DCI SE 5-dr.                  | In 49,000 miles, superb value diesel at  | REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495 |
| 54 | SUZUKI 1.5 VVTi Ignis Sport.                    | In Met Silver, 50,000 miles, with Recara sports seats, alloys etc.                             | £4,695                    |
| 55 | FIAT Punto 1.2 Sunroof Special.                 | In blue, very nice example   | REDUCED BY £600 TO £3,695 |
| 04 | FORD Ka 1.3 Style                               | In Silver, low mileage, local car at   | £3,695                    |
| 04 | DAEWOO Kalos 145X 5-dr.                         | Met blue, 17,000 miles, ideal family hatch, fantastic value                                    | £3,695                    |
| 55 | CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.4 SE 5-dr.                  | In black, fantastic value at   | £3,495                    |
| 05 | DAEWOO Lacetti SX 5-dr                          | In silver, 26,000 miles, excellent example at  | £3,495                    |
| 03 | RENAULT Megane 1.4 Dynamique 5-dr               | In met blue, stylish modern family hatch at  | £3,495                    |
| 03 | RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 16v.                | 3-dr in electric blue, low mileage local car at  | £3,495                    |
| 02 | MG ZR 2.0 Diesel 3-dr                           | In met burgundy, low mileage example at  | £3,295                    |
| 03 | RENAULT Clio 1.2 3-Dr.                          | In Silver, 50,000 miles with CD, E/Windows, C/Locking  | REDUCED BY £500 TO £2,995 |
| 03 | FORD Ka 1.3i.                                   | In Blue, 30,000 miles, local car at  | £2,995                    |
| 53 | MG 1.4 ZR 3-dr.                                 | In Bright metallic Green, 55,000 miles, low mileage on offer at                                | REDUCED BY £500 TO £2,995 |
| 52 | VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 SXi 3-dr.                    | In met. silver, 69,000 miles, full sports pack plus upgraded alloys                            | £2,995                    |
| 02 | SKODA Fabia 1.4 16v 4-dr                        | In light metallic blue, 50,000 miles   | £2,995                    |
| Y  | NISSAN Micra 1.0 S 5-dr Automatic.              | In met-green, 21,000 miles, 2 lady owners from new   | £2,995                    |
| 03 | FORD Ka 1.3.                                    | In Blue, 48,000 miles with PAS, CD etc.  | REDUCED BY £300 TO £2,695 |
| W  | FORD Puma 1.7                                   | Met silver, 59,000 miles, with a/c, c/d, alloys  | REDUCED BY £500 TO £2,495 |
| Y  | VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.6 Estate                      | In Silver with privacy glass, roof rails etc.  | REDUCED BY £500 TO £2,495 |
| 02 | DAEWOO Matiz SE                                 | In bright met green, 33,000 miles, low insurance   | £2,395                    |
| 02 | DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 SX                            | In silver, 55,000 miles, a/c, cd   | £1,995                    |

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- 02 02 BMW 3 Series 2.0 318i SE Compact Hatchback 3-dr. In jet black with anthracite interior, parking sensors, multifunction steering wheel, cd, climate control, electric windows and mirrors, only 79,181 miles ..... £4,995
- 01 51 BMW 2.0 318i Touring 5-dr Estate. In steel blue with jacquard grey interior, rear parking sensors, trip computer, CD, alloy wheels, only 69,830 miles ..... £5,995

## CONVERTIBLES

- 02 02 PORSCHE Boxster 5 3.2 2-dr convertible in brilliant silver with black leather interior, 18inch sport design alloy wheels, wind deflector, heated seats, only 38,850 miles ..... £14,995
- 52 VOLVO C70 2.0T Convertible 2-dr. In Silver with beige leather upholstery, air con, electric windows and mirrors, CD, alloy wheels, only 63,125 miles ..... £6,995
- 05 MGTF 1.6 115 Convertible In ignition blue, rear glass screen, alloy wheels, CD, only 18,025 miles ..... £5,995
- 99 1 MAZDA MX5 1.8i 2-dr Convertible 10th Anniversary Limited Edition. In metallic blue with blue/black interior, alloy wheels, CD, alarm, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 42,422 miles ..... £5,495
- 03 03 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8 Petrol 150bhp. In black, with biscuit leather interior, alloy wheels, CD, heated seats, only 32,000 miles ..... £9,995
- 03 53 MG TF Convertible 1.8 135 16v 2-dr. In metallic silver with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, only 22,723 miles ..... £4,495

## EXECUTIVE/SPORTS

- 06 06 VW Golf 1.9 TDI Sport 5-dr hatchback in steel grey with grey interior, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 56,325 miles ..... £8,995
- 06 06 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi 5-dr hatchback in panther black with Hurm dark flint interior, cd, alloy wheels, air con, front fog, only 27,325 miles ..... £7,995
- 04 04 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe. In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles ..... £8,995
- 04 54 ROVER 75 Tourer 2.0 CDTi Connaisseur SE 5-dr Estate Automatic. In Cimarron Green with black leather interior, walnut dash and steering wheel, alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 48,180 miles ..... £6,995
- 04 54 HYUNDAI Coupe 1.6S 3-dr Coupe in smart silver with dark interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, alarm, only 46,770 miles ..... £5,495
- 03 53 MERCEDES S350 Automatic 3.7 Petrol 4-dr Saloon. In brilliant silver with black leather, automatic climate control, walnut wood trim, sat nav, heated seats, CD, front and rear parking sensors, alloy wheels, full Mercedes service history, only 78,700 miles ..... £12,995
- 03 53 PEUGEOT 406 2.2 HDi SE Coupe 2-dr. In Silver with red Amarante leather interior, alarm, alloy wheels, CD, GPS navigation, cruise control, heated front seats, only 46,700 miles ..... £5,995
- 52 AUDI A4 SE 2.0 Petrol 4-dr Saloon Automatic. In Crystal Blue with phoenix cloth interior, parking sensors on front and rear, air con, CD, alloy wheels, electric windows, only 55,560 miles ..... £5,995
- 04 04 FORD Mondeo 1.8 Sci Ghia 5-dr. In Stardust silver with dark interior, air con, steering wheel mounted controls, CD, alarm, only 33,795 miles ..... £4,995

## ECONOMICAL SMALL CARS

- 08 58 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Zetec Climate 5-dr Hatchback. In amethyst purple with tungsten denim blue interior, air con, CD, MP3 connection, Isofix anchorage point, colour coded bumpers, only 9,590 miles ..... £8,995
- 08 57 FORD Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback. In apple green with Cascade indigo interior, climate control, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, heated front screen, only 3,873 miles ..... £5,995
- 07 07 FORD Fusion Zetec Climate 1.4 5-dr Hatchback. In metallic tango red with onyx dream interior, alloy wheels, chrome front grille surround, front fog lights, trip computer, air con, only 10,870 miles ..... £6,995
- 07 07 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr Hatchback in aluminium silver with Madison graphite interior, air con, cd, electric front windows, only 9,120 miles ..... £6,495
- 07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback. In metallic black with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, front electric windows, only 19,005 miles ..... £6,495
- 07 07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5-dr Hatchback. In chemical gray with drop blue black interior, central locking, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 22,120 miles ..... £5,795
- 06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback in tonic blue with tungsten/denim interior, air con, alloy wheels, quick clear screen, cd, front fogs, only 24,250 miles ..... £6,495
- 06 56 CITROEN C3 1.4i Desire 5-dr Hatchback. Artic blue, tomy blue interior, a/c, c/l, pas, 5 seats ..... £5,995
- 06 06 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 3-dr Hatchback. In onyx black with madison grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, low insurance, only 14,545 miles ..... £5,995
- 06 06 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback. In odyssey blue with jacquard black interior, front fogs, alloy wheels, CD, only 35,870 miles ..... £5,995
- 56 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 12v Urban 3-dr Hatchback. In Raven black with black matrix interior, electric windows, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 16,465 miles ..... £5,995
- 06 06 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 16v SXi 3-dr Hatchback. In pomegranate red with Duke charcoal interior, alloy wheels, CD, immobiliser, power steering, front electric windows, only 3,480 miles ..... £5,495
- 05 05 NISSAN Micra 1.2 16v Urbis 5-dr Hatchback. In Grey with dark grey interior, rear parking sensors, CD, alloy wheels, only 12,215 miles ..... £5,495
- 04 04 RENAULT Clio 1.5dCi Dynamique 5-dr hatchback in Odyssey met blue with jacquard black interior, sunroof, alloy wheels, air con, alarm, cd, only 31,538 miles ..... £4,995
- 03 03 TOYOTA Yaris GS 1.0L Petrol 5-dr. In dark green, with grey interior, central locking, CD, only 63,500 miles ..... £3,995
- 02 02 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Privilege 5-dr Hatchback. In Nordic green with vertigo grey interior, air con, 5 belted seats, body coloured bumpers, power steering, only 38,940 miles ..... £3,995
- 04 04 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Life 3-dr Hatchback. In breeze blue with Orleans charcoal interior, CD, 5 belted seats, steering wheel audio mounted controls, only 56,321 miles ..... £3,495
- 02 02 FORD KA 1.3 Hatchback in Blue with blue interior, pas, insurance group 2, only 58,587 miles ..... £2,495
- 01 51 PEUGEOT 106 1.5 Diesel Zest 2 3-dr hatchback in met light blue with blue interior, cd, immobiliser, pas, only 47,760 miles ..... £2,495

## FAMILY SELECTION

- 07 56 TOYOTA Auris T3 D-4D. In Ixion Blue Mica, with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, trip computer, shift indicator, only 12,700 miles ..... £9,995
- 07 07 FORD Focus Zetec Climate 1.8 TDCi in moon dust silver with rack ebony interior, quick clear front screen, air con, alloy wheels, only 19,200 miles ..... £8,995
- 06 56 FORD Focus 1.6 Ghia 5-dr Hatchback Automatic. In aquarius blue with cubical ebony interior, air con, cruise control, quick clear screen, only 26,900 miles ..... £7,995
- 07 57 VAUXHALL Astra 1.4 16v Energy In star silver with charcoal interior, air con, CD, MP3 connection, Isofix anchorage points, only 8,810 miles ..... £7,995
- 05 05 HONDA Civic SE 1.7 CDTi 5-dr Hatchback. In magnetic blue with hatch black interior, body coloured bumpers, alloy wheels, CD, only 50,300 miles ..... £6,495
- 04 04 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0 TDCi Ghia MPV. In moon dust silver with Linea ebony interior, alarm, cruise control, CD, alloy wheels, only 54,290 miles ..... £5,995
- 03 03 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 5-dr. In metallic Hessian with charcoal grey interior, panoramic roof, air con, CD, auto lights, electric windows front and rear, 56,752 miles ..... £3,995
- 04 04 FORD Mondeo 1.8 Mistral 5-dr. In Tonic Blue with majestic ebony upholstery, air con, central locking, CD, alloy wheels, only 61,165 miles ..... £3,995
- 04 04 MG ZR 1.4 3-dr. In metallic grey with half leather interior, electric windows, air con, alloy wheels, CD, only 63,335 miles ..... £3,995
- 01 Y PEUGEOT 206 1.6GLX 5-dr. In metallic blue with dark interior, air con, front fogs, only 64,000 miles ..... £2,995



01 51 PEUGEOT 106 1.5 Diesel Zest 2 3-dr hatchback in met light blue with blue interior, cd, immobiliser, pas, only 47,760 miles ..... £2,495



01 51 BMW 2.0 318i Touring 5-dr Estate. In steel blue with jacquard grey interior, rear parking sensors, trip computer, CD, alloy wheels, only 69,830 miles ..... £5,995



07 56 TOYOTA Auris T3 D-4D. In Ixion Blue Mica, with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, trip computer, shift indicator, only 12,700 miles ..... £9,995



06 06 VW Golf 1.9 TDI Sport 5-dr hatchback in steel grey with grey interior, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 56,325 miles ..... £8,995



08 58 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Zetec Climate 5-dr Hatchback. In amethyst purple with tungsten denim blue interior, air con, CD, MP3 connection, Isofix anchorage point, colour coded bumpers, only 9,590 miles ..... £8,995



04 04 RENAULT Clio 1.5dCi Dynamique 5-dr hatchback in Odyssey met blue with jacquard black interior, sunroof, alloy wheels, air con, alarm, cd, only 31,538 miles ..... £4,995



06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback in tonic blue with tungsten/denim interior, air con, alloy wheels, quick clear screen, cd, front fogs, only 24,250 miles ..... £6,495



99 1 MAZDA MX5 1.8i 2-dr Convertible 10th Anniversary Limited Edition. In metallic blue with blue/black interior, alloy wheels, CD, alarm, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 42,422 miles ..... £5,495

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| 07 | Lacetti SX 1.6 5dr in Poly Silver, 23,501 miles           | £4495 |
| 07 | Chevrolet Lacetti 1.6 SX 5dr in Poly Silver, 23,501 miles | £4495 |
| 57 | Chevrolet Kalos 1.2 SE                                    | £4695 |
| 54 | Focus Zetec 1.6 5dr in Blue, 35,000 miles                 | £4995 |
| 05 | Fusion City 1.4 5dr in Silver, 33,000 miles               | £4995 |

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| 05            | Astra Life 1.8 AUTO 5dr in Gold, 19,261 miles                 | £5495 | 06                 | Tigra Exclusiv 1.4 Cabriolet in Black, 30,000 miles                  | £8695  |
| 57            | Astra Life 1.4 5dr in Black                                   | £6995 | <b>VECTRA</b>      |  |        |
| 57            | Astra Life 1.4 5dr in Grey, Air Con, 23,231 miles             | £6995 | 57                 | Vectra Design 1.8 5dr in Pannacotta, 18,252 miles                    | £8295  |
| 57            | Astra Life 1.4 5dr in Silver, 25,393 miles                    | £6995 | 08                 | Vectra Exclusive 1.8 5dr in Black, 11641 miles                       | £8295  |
| 57            | Astra Life VVT 1.6 Est in Silver, 14,886 miles                | £6995 | 08                 | Vectra SRI with Air Con  | £8695  |
| 07            | Astra Life 1.6 Estate in Silver                               | £6995 | 07                 | Vectra Life 1.8 5dr in Blue  | £8995  |
| 07            | Astra Design VVT 1.8 Estate in Star Silver                    | £6995 | 08                 | Vectra Elite CDTi 1.9 5dr AUTO DIESEL Silver Lightning, 14,047 miles | £11495 |
| 55            | Astra Design 1.9 3dr DIESEL in Pomegranate, 61,000 miles      | £7495 | <b>ZAFIRA</b>      |  |        |
| 57            | Astra SXi 1.7 5dr DIESEL in Silver, 20,000 miles              | £8495 | 57                 | Zafira Design CDTi 1.9 MPV DIESEL in Silver, 18,942 miles            | £10295 |
| 56            | Astra Sport 1.8 3dr in Silver Lightning, X-Pack, 33,000 miles | £8995 | 57                 | Zafira Design CDTi 1.9 MPV DIESEL in Black Sapphire, 14,871 miles    | £10295 |
| 57            | Astra Sxi 1.6 Estate in Black Sapphire, 19683 miles           | £8995 | 57                 | Zafira Elite CDTi 1.9 MPV DIESEL in Beige, 21,552 miles              | £11495 |
| 57            | Astra SRI 1.6 Turbo Sport Hatch 3dr, in Black, 14,367 miles   | £9995 | 08                 | Zafira Elite CDTi 1.9 MPV DIESEL in Steel Blue, 17,436 miles         | £11995 |
| 57            | Astra Elite VVT 1.8 5dr AUTO in Star Silver, 8,973 miles      | £9995 | <b>CHRYSLER</b>    |  |        |
| <b>AGILA</b>  |   |       | 08                 | Sebring CRD Limited 2.0 SAL Diesel in Silver 16280 miles             | £9995  |
| 57            | Agila Club 1.2 5dr in Blue, 16,478 miles                      | £7495 | <b>RENAULT</b>     |  |        |
| 57            | Agila Club 1.2 5dr in Blue, 16,478 miles                      | £7495 | 08                 | Clio Dynamique 1.2 Turbo 4dr in Tempest, 12,088 miles                | £8495  |
| 08            | Agila Club 1.2 5dr in Black, 5,848 miles                      | £7495 | <b>CHEVROLET</b>   |  |        |
| 58            | Agila Design 1.2 5dr in Blue, 1500 miles                      | £8295 | 08                 | Lacetti SX 1.6 5dr in Poly Silver 5,828 miles                        | £5995  |
| <b>CORSA</b>  |   |       | 08                 | Aveo LT 1.4 AUTO 5dr in Poly Silver, 8,551 miles                     | £7495  |
| 06            | Corza Life 1.2 3dr in Ultra Blue, 20,000 miles                | £5495 | <b>AUTOMATICS</b>  |  |        |
| 55            | Corza SXi 1.2 3dr in Black, Air conditioning, 21,900 miles    | £6995 | 05                 | Astra Life 1.8 5dr in Gold, 19,261 miles                             | £5495  |
| 08            | Corza Club 1.2 5dr, in Silver Lightning, 15,900 miles         | £7695 | 56                 | Astra Life 1.8 in Silver   | £6495  |
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# GEM sport

## It's a trip to the Millennium in Cardiff for team as... Athletic youth secure stadium appearance with comfortable win

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| BRIDGEND ATHLETIC | 27 |
| BLACKWOOD         | 3  |

THE Athletic Youth booked their return ticket back to the Millennium Stadium on Saturday, May 16 with this emphatic victory over the Gwent champions, where they will meet the Blues Champions, Merthyr, in the league play off final.

This semi-final was played at Glamorgan Wanderers' ground in great conditions for rugby. Blackwood, with the wind in their favour, came out of the blocks slightly better than the Athletic and took an early lead when the Athletic got penalised for holding on.

Unusually, the Athletic blew some early opportunities to pressurise Blackwood with three crooked lineout throws, a normally impeccable aspect of Nathan Holman's game.

However, the Athletic's scrum was gaining ascendancy against their larger opponents and was a major factor in keeping Blackwood on the back foot.

From one of these scrums on the Blackwood 22 the Athletic took the lead when full back Luke Morgan took a great angle off James Olds' pass to cross for a try, converted by fly half Matthew Morgan.

Both sides then missed a penalty apiece before Blackwood had a player binned for mountaineering at a ruck.

They were fortunate not to receive a second yellow when they prevented a possible try by killing the ball at a ruck in front of their posts.

Matthew Morgan converted the resulting penalty

to give the Athletic a half time lead of 10-3.

Unfortunately, outstanding second row Adam Evans had to leave the field with a knee injury.

Ten minutes into the second period the Athletic missed a penalty and several drop goal attempts followed to no avail.

The decisive score came from a scrum 15 yards out, when number eight Tom Morgan, who has had an outstanding season, broke left and gave an inside pass to his captain, Ben Howe, who crossed for his thirteenth try of the season.

Replacement scrum half Tom Davies converted. Davies then converted a 50-metre penalty to increase the lead.

Blackwood made valiant attempts to get back into the game and it needed a brilliant tackle from Ben Howe to prevent them scoring, but the Athletic defence must be the meanest around having only conceded one try since November 1, a phenomenal statistic.

Blackwood could not gain ascendancy in any area apart from some good turnovers and never really threatened the Athletic line.

Replacement full back Rhys Jones then crossed in the corner to seal Blackwood's fate followed with a great conversion by Davies.

With one more game to play the Athletic are obviously keen to keep their unbeaten record at the Millennium Stadium, but realise that they are meeting the largest and toughest opponents they have played this season, having knocked Merthyr out of the Welsh Cup by eight points to nil (kick-off is 2.15pm). Anyone wishing to travel on the supporters bus can contact Cheryl at the clubhouse.

(See more on the final on page 26)

## Second trophy in a week for the Athletic seconds

IN a repeat of the previous week's District League Cup Final, the same two sides, Bridgend Athletic and Tondur 2nd XV contested the District League Division 1 play off final at The Old Parish ground, Maesteg.

It was a nail-biting affair with the result in the balance until the final whistle.

The outcome was the same, with the Athletic following up a 9-7 win in the cup, with a 10-6 win in this League final.

The Athletic started with a front row with a combined age of 123 years, and forced to play three props in the front row.

Senior prop Jeff Bartle assumed the hooking role, supported by Nigel Hemmings and the youthful 38-year-old Adrian Kelly.

The Athletic had the best of the early play with the pack dominating the more youthful Tondur eight.

However, when influential No 8 Gareth Bartlett was sent to the

sin bin Tondur took advantage and pressed the Athletic.

Their pressure paid off with a penalty kicked by outside half Jonathon Humphries.

The Athletic saw their leading try scorer, Richard Dyke, pull up with a hamstring injury to be replaced by Johnny Nation.

The return of powerful No 8 Bartlett led to a series of barnstorming runs and good support from fellow back row forwards captain Liam Griffiths and Owain Davies, put the Athletic on the front foot.

Lock Huw Morris, supported by Tom Howells, was giving a master class in the line out, enabling half backs Stuart Kenny and Sean Owens to keep the Athletic going forward.

On the half hour Owens levelled the scores with a well struck penalty from 42 metres.

The Athletic, refreshed from their half time break, again took the initiative.

Having destroyed a Tondur scrum close to the Tondur try line, they were awarded a

penalty five metres out.

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| SECOND XV FIXTURE |    |
| BRIDGEND ATHLETIC | 10 |
| TONDUR            | 6  |

With the Athletic going for a pushover try Tondur infringed to prevent the try, and the Athletic were awarded a penalty try.

Owens converted to bring his points tally to 131 for the season.

Tondur responded with a second Humphries' penalty to reduce the deficit to 10-6 with 25 minutes left to play.

For the remainder of the match it was desperate defence from the Athletic to keep out Tondur, as their young back division sought to find an opening.

Full back Chris Thomas stopped at least two certain tries.

Centres Carle Ellis and Johnny Nation and wings Simon Stoker and Chris McGrath also tackled heroically.

Injuries saw the Athletic forced to use three more substitutes as wing Andrew Tyler, flanker James Groom and prop Ian Holman joined the rear guard action.

The introduction of Holman increased the

front row's combined age by a year.

Despite their best efforts Tondur failed to breach a very determined defence, and the Athletic were relieved to hear the final whistle and return down the valley with their second trophy in a week.

The Athletic 2nd XV would like to thank coach Tony Griffiths, team manager Ian Holman, baggage man Andrew Morgan and club secretary Roy Huntley for their support during the season.

During the season the team played 16 fixtures, winning 13, losing two with one drawn. They accumulated 458 points for with 217 against, and a favourable try tally of 65-23.

Sean Owens was the leading points scorer with 131.

Richard Dyke and Chris Thomas were leading try scorers with seven-a-piece.

In all 70 players turned out for the 2nd XV.

AB

## Promotion is within touching distance for Porthcawl Town

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| PONTYCLUN      | 0 |
| PORTHCAWL TOWN | 4 |

PORTHCAWL Town put in a fantastic display against Pontyclun at the Ivor Park ground to easily brush aside their hosts and put themselves within touching distance of promotion to division two of the Welsh League.

Having been relegated from division two three seasons ago, it will be a welcome return for a club who have under-achieved for the past few years.

They far from under-achieved Saturday though, as they put in the kind of performance which merits their standing in the league.

Put ahead by a Steven Atkinson penalty in the 10th minute following a foul on marauding midfielder Gareth Griffiths, Porthcawl went two ahead as Griffiths himself got on the scoresheet, volleying home after neat play by the impressive Lee Williams.

Soon after it was three, as Williams scored following a Ieuan Thomas cross, and then, following the interval, Williams bagged his second brace in as many matches as he competently finished into the

top corner after good work by James Lott.

Looking more like the team from earlier in the season, Porthcawl looked assured both in defence and attack, limiting the chances of their opposition while creating countless opportunities.

If only Porthcawl had been so ruthless just a few weeks ago promotion may already have been secured.

As it stands, they are currently seven points clear of fourth placed Cwmaman United, albeit having played a game more.

For Cwmaman to have any chance of going up however, they would have to win each of their remaining fixtures, two of which are against Llwydcoed and Porth, placed first and second in the league respectively.

Porthcawl will travel to Aberdare on Saturday to face league leaders AFC Llwydcoed, eager to avenge earlier defeats in both the league and cup, and clinch promotion.

If they are unable to triumph over the weekend, however, they surely will the following week when they face a Llansawel side fighting for their survival toward the bottom of the table.

Kick-off at the Llwydcoed Football Ground is 2.30pm.

ROBERT JAMES OWEN

## Kenfig Hill Seconds claim league title

KENFIG HILL Seconds finished top of their league with Pyle coming second; however, they were compelled to play in a league play off which if played on either of their grounds would have resulted in a bumper crowd – hence the game was played in Masteg.

Kenfig Hill, to their credit, played a team consisting of the players who had represented them during the season.

Kenfig Hill opened the scoring with a try by second row Richard Underhill converted by outside half Marc Fitzgerald who then added a penalty and followed up a good first half performance with a try.

Half time score : Kenfig Hill 15, Pyle 0.

Pyle opened the second half with two penalties by outside half Ray Evans, but Kenfig Hill replied with a fine individual try by their top scorer and winger Rhys Stanton, converted by Fitzgerald.

Ray Evans then went over for Pyle, converting his own try, while Fitzgerald added a penalty for the Mules.

Ray Evans then scored a glorious individual try in which he sidestepped and out-

paced the entire Kenfig

Hill team. Not to be outdone, Pyle scum half David Pound almost matched the Evans' try with a similar solo effort which Evans converted.

The game was now on a knife edge with the scores tied at 25-25.

Kenfig Hill were awarded a difficult penalty in the dying seconds of the game and substitute Jamie Meers called for the ball.

Despite some unsporting booing and catcalling by the Pyle supporters gave the finest answer to this behaviour by putting the ball between the posts to give a final score of: Kenfig Hill 28, Pyle 25.

This was a good all round performance by Kenfig Hill with the throwing in to the line out by Craig Williams being outstanding.

For Pyle, outside half Ray Evans stood out; he looks destined to play rugby at a far higher level.

Congratulations to Michael Guy, who in his first season of captaincy has led the Mules to a league title.

A busy month for presentations sees three remaining junior presentations and the senior presentation is on May 15, with Rick O'Shea as the guest speaker.

The youth presentation is on May 22 and there are some tickets available if people wish to attend.

GOS

## The GEM Quiz League posers

TO start the close season, here are your four teasers:

1 What name do we give to the style of mass dancing developed in America in 1935 as a cross between the Rhumba and African tribal dancing?

2 The scientific name for Vitamin B1 derives its name from the Greek word for sulphur what is it?

3 German-born Jurgen Grobler is the

Great Britain coach in which sport?

4 Who founded Cardinal College, Oxford in 1524, though it later became Christchurch College when he fell out with Henry VIII?

A RUDGE (Hon sec BGQL)

ANSWERS:  
1. Conga.  
2. Thiamin.  
3. Roving.  
4. Cardinal Wolsey.

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